THE WORLD OF
INTERIORS
JANUARY 2024

Va-va-bloom!

From far-out feats in sugar to a Venetian fantasy suite

What's in the air this month

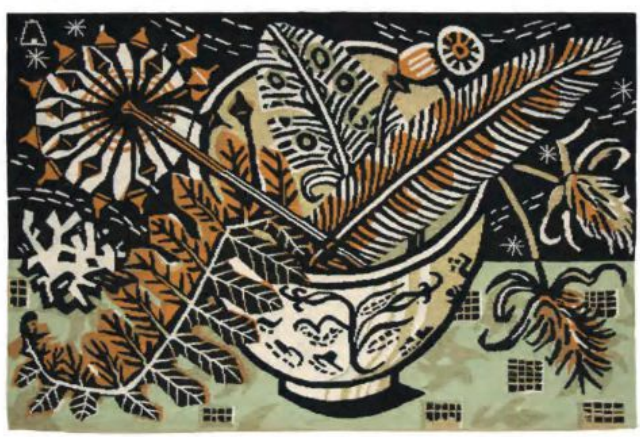
by David Lipton

Venus Envy

Like budding onions, Elif Uras's pieces swell with vital life – and layers. Ostensibly inspired by the large collection of Islamic ceramics at New York's Metropolitan Museum – which commissioned this collection – they seem to draw on the sculptures of Niki de Saint Phalle (*WoI* Nov 2022), which, in turn, recall the elemental Venus of Willendorf. In her work, Uras, who divides her time between Istanbul and New York, attempts to get to grips with the status of women in society, especially the way in which they are caught between modern life and the pull of tradition. Equally balanced between figurative and abstract art, the pieces blend decidedly non-representational pattern with bodily form. Proof, perhaps, of the political possibilities a trip round the Met may yield. Shown top: 'Mini Goddess' vase with pedestal, £3,500. *Visit store.metmuseum.org*

Milanese Touch

In common with many of the great mercantile capitals of Europe – from Amsterdam to Vienna – there is something slightly uptight about Milanese design: rigid, geometric, formal; yet it's tempered by an exquisite sense of material and colour. Casa Brivio is no exception: as angular as Mondrian but as glossy as Loos. Situated in two buildings from the 1960s and 1970s, between the Torre Velasca and the Colonne di San Lorenzo, it is the city's newest hospitality project. The 16 rentable apartments, developed by Matteo Thun Architects with the help of Cassina Custom Interiors, have décor that nods to pioneers of Milanese style. In the reception, chevrons in blue and yellow zigzag their way across the ceiling (below), calling to mind both the heraldic motifs on painted ceilings in the Castello Sforzesco and Gio Ponti's striking Modernist entrance halls. Seated in Cassina's lauded 'Lady' armchair, guests are guaranteed to feel as casually chic as any *sciura*. Rooms from £320 approx a night. *Visit casabrivio.com*



The Have-knots

Knot by knot, tapestries are worked up like the pixels of a digital image. That said, they are qualitatively different in their assertive materiality to anything that slowly appears as a page from an inkjet printer. Urging everyone to take up the craft, William Morris repopularised it as an art form, dutifully recording the number of hours he spent at his loom. Scottish artist Angie Lewin, who is fascinated by the possibilities the medium presents to explore scale, has picked up the baton, collaborating with Dovecot Studios to enlarge one of her prints, *Teabowl and Bracken*, into a hanging. The studio, founded in 1912, was steeped in Arts and Crafts ideas, whose emphasis on pattern and form lends itself perfectly to the medium, and to Lewin's graphic work. It marks a pendulum swing Morris would have loved: handcraft and the physical object reasserting themselves in an increasingly mechanised world. Shown top: 'Teabowl and Bracken' tapestry, £35,000. *Visit scottish-gallery.co.uk*