

# Flowers Underfoot: Indian Carpets of the Mughal Era

*Daniel S. Walker*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*

 Download

 Read Online

#203772 in Books Metropolitan Museum of Art 1997-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 12.75 x 9.50 x 1.00l, #File Name: 0870997874199 pages | File size: 19.Mb

**Daniel S. Walker : Flowers Underfoot: Indian Carpets of the Mughal Era** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flowers Underfoot: Indian Carpets of the Mughal Era:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Original in All Respects By Charles M. Marsteller This catalog of this exhibition is unique in the sense that it depicts great carpets which have been in some way damaged but clearly is undeniably great. It seems that oftentimes the greatest works of art are never exhibited due to damage. In this exhibition, this was not the case: they display great works that otherwise we have never seen. And of course, the greatest era of carpet weaving was the Mogul/Safavid era--at least if color and flowers are your passion. I have always been intrigued by the depiction of the geometric garden (as first defined by the great Cyrus of Persia in 500BC) into carpet design--and this book shows the maturation of that great art form by 1500AD. There is much to be said about this--and it is well stated and displayed in this exhibition catalog.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not wild about this book By Customer A few of these carpets were indeed beautiful.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. famous carpet exhibition By Ivor E. Zetler This book, a catalogue of an exhibition held at the Metropolitan Museum in 1998, should be in the library of any self respecting carpet enthusiast. It covers the pile woven carpets manufactured during the Mughal era. The 2 great Mughal leaders were Abu Akbar (ruled from 1556-1605) and Shah Jahan (ruled from 1628-58). Carpets from this era are very rare; this fact is partially due to a disastrous fire in 1579 when (so it was reported) 10 million textiles, tents, carpets etc were destroyed in a warehouse fire. Most of the quality carpets still existing originate from the Shah Jahan era. Remember that Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal. The end of his era signaled the end of the great Mughal reigns and the ceasing of quality carpet manufacture. This famous

exhibition assembled many of the great surviving Mughal carpets. There were 44 exhibits. The catalogue, now out of print and a collector's item, has excellent color reproductions and an authoritative text by Daniel Walker.

With the exhibition "Flowers Underfoot: Indian Carpets of the Mughal Era," The Metropolitan Museum of Art paid tribute to India, as the country celebrates its fiftieth year of independence. The exhibition featured works from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century, the period during which Indian carpet weavers produced their most stunning works. Despite their breathtakingly delicate beauty, Indian carpets are little known even to carpet experts, so "Flowers Underfoot: Indian Carpets of the Mughal Era" and its accompanying catalogue are crucial additions to both the study of Indian art and carpet studies. Indian Carpets are very difficult to study as a group since there are about five hundred surviving pieces, a large number of which are scattered in private collections around the world. Consequently, a long period of research was necessary to gather information on the extant pieces and to have an understanding of this impressive body of material. The exhibition and its catalogue constitute the first in-depth study of Indian carpets and will surely take their rightful place in the history of carpet studies. The works in the exhibition represent the broad range of carpets produced during the most artistically creative and prolific period of the Mughal Empire. The discussion of carpets in the catalogue roughly follows a chronological development. The earliest works are from the period of the Mughal emperor Akbar (r. 1556-1605), an active patron who is believed to have established the first imperial carpet workshops in India. These carpets combine the dynamism of Akbar's reign with traces of Persian design (due to the large number of Persian artists who immigrated to India at this time). The basic elements of Mughal design were established during this period; they can also be traced in later works. Akbar's son Jahangir (r. 1605-27) succeeded to the throne, and his relatively peaceful period of rule allowed further concentration on the arts. The Persian style continued to dominate court aesthetics during Jahangir's reign, but it became quite different from its Persian prototypes and acquired a distinctly Indian character. It was during the reign of Jahangir's son, Shah Jahan (r. 1628-58) that the flower style in Indian art came into popular use. This aesthetic was characterized by naturalistic flowers, either arranged in rows or against a plain background. The flower style began to dominate not only carpet design but all aspects of Mughal art. [This book was originally published in 1997 and has gone out of print. This edition is a print-on-demand version of the original book.]