

## Rita Romanova Gekht

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There are two aspects of tapestry weaving that attracted me to this ancient medium. One is technical where something that starts with a simple "over under" can grow into an enormous, bigger than life wall hanging as in Renaissance Tapestries. The other is a visual with a painting like quality and wide color pallet and texture which creates a story-telling composition.

In designing for tapestries I am often drawn to architecture – that marvelous creation of human mind and eye, the intricate relation of a line, a shape and a structure. There are many technical similarities in a process of constructing a structure and weaving a tapestry, in layering shapes upon each other, interconnecting them for strength, finding that perfect balance of vertical and horizontals.

Yet, unlike the architectural compositions, in tapestries I can break many rules by stretching and distorting the image, altering designs in a way that need not withstand any practical tests, just balancing on imagination.

I think of weaving belonging to the realm of mystical arts. Its meditative qualities grounded in repetition and heightened by tactile and visual sensations, have an ability to transform and offer a beautiful escape for my mind into a place of peace and harmony.

