



reminiscent

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Textiles MFA

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Contents

Artist statement	1
Song of the Flower poem by Khalil Gibran	3
Why scent?	4 - 5
The fragrance of home...	6 - 15
Scent coated yarn	16 - 19
Jasmine मोगरा	20 - 43
Rose गुलाब	44 - 63
Citronella	64 - 81
Kasturi Kundal Basai poem by Kabir Das	83
Vetiver खस	84 - 107
Sandalwood चंदन	108 - 121
Clove लवँग	122 -133



Artist statement

My work integrates textiles and fragrance to condense time and distance and create an immersive experience to reconnect with nature, nostalgia and the comfort of home.

Through a collection of wall hangings, tapestries and room dividers that stimulates the senses beyond sight with a feeling of familiarity, I play with six different fragrances each bearing a strong connection with my South Indian heritage. By creating a coating for cotton yarn with wax and tree resin, colored with natural pigments and fragranced with essential oils, I have integrated scent into handwoven and embroidered textiles. Fragrances can be interpreted universally or can be customized according to the user. I explore patterns and geometry, incorporating recycled sari silk in jeweled tones, fragrant vetiver root and organza silk naturally dyed in earth hues.

The smell of roses in the flower market close to home, the sandalwood scented talcum powder on my grandmother's dresser, the sweet-smelling jasmine with which we adorn our hair at weddings and the earthy scent of the first monsoon rain hitting the parched summer earth. Each piece unique in technique and color palette reinforces my connection with nature and the intimate memory triggered by scent.



Song of the Flower

I am a kind word uttered and repeated
By the voice of Nature;
I am a star fallen from the
Blue tent upon the green carpet.
I am the daughter of the elements
With whom Winter conceived;
To whom Spring gave birth; I was
Reared in the lap of Summer and I
Slept in the bed of Autumn.

At dawn I unite with the breeze
To announce the coming of light;
At eventide I join the birds
In bidding the light farewell.

The plains are decorated with
My beautiful colors, and the air
Is scented with my fragrance.

As I embrace Slumber the eyes of
Night watch over me, and as I
Awaken I stare at the sun, which is
The only eye of the day.

I drink dew for wine, and hearken to
The voices of the birds, and dance
To the rhythmic swaying of the grass.

I am the lover's gift; I am the wedding wreath;
I am the memory of a moment of happiness;
I am the last gift of the living to the dead;
I am a part of joy and a part of sorrow.

But I look up high to see only the light,
And never look down to see my shadow.
This is wisdom which man must learn.

- Khalil Gibran



Why scent?

The ubiquitous nature of textiles and its applications is constantly progressing and evolving. Can textiles today also help with well-being? Can it interact with all our senses?

Many of us in urban environments crave a connection with nature. By interacting with its elements, nature activates feelings of calm and joy. During this unsettling period of being quarantined in our homes due to the outbreak of COVID-19, emotional and mental well-being has become increasingly necessary and important. The sense of smell is a powerful catalyst to trigger memories and comfort. I have developed a system of incorporating fragrance through natural scent coated and dyed yarn in handweaving and embroidery. Reinterpreting the fragrance industry, I use textiles as aroma therapy to condense time and distance and create an immersive experience to reconnect with nature and nostalgia.



12" x 32"
dyed cotton and chenille double weave with
pockets of dried lavender and peppermint

A close-up, top-down view of several baskets filled with a variety of flowers. The flowers are densely packed and include yellow, orange, white, pink, and red blooms. The baskets are made of dark, woven material. The overall scene is bright and colorful, suggesting a flower market or a floral arrangement display.

The fragrance
of home...









| Spices in the kitchen, Bangalore, 2020 |



| My grandmother's dressing table, Bangalore, 2019 |

Scent coated yarn

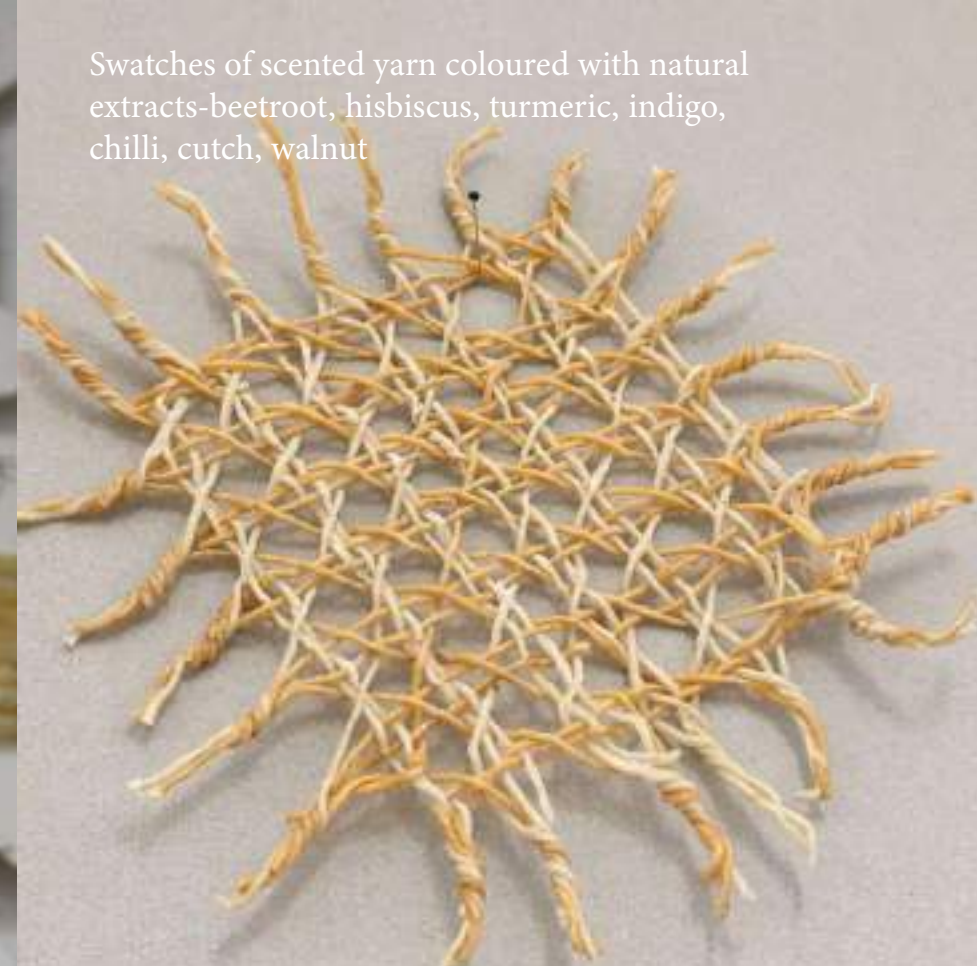


I use only natural or biodegradable materials in my production process. I use filtered beeswax as my base as it burns slowly and therefore releases scent at a slower pace than other waxes. I combine the wax with a tree based resin and natural pigments to provide colour. I introduce pure essential oils for fragrance at a temperature below its boiling point that would otherwise cause the scent to dissipate. Cotton yarn is coated and cured in a sealed casing for 24-48 hours.

Wax is a material that retains scent. The scent is not permanent but impermanence is a part of all things natural. After testing, I have found that the scent remains around a month's time if exposed to air and less time when exposed to sunlight. After which, the fragranced oils must be reintroduced on the waxed surface and air dried for it to absorb.



Swatches of scented yarn coloured with natural extracts-beetroot, hisbiscus, turmeric, indigo, chilli, cutch, walnut





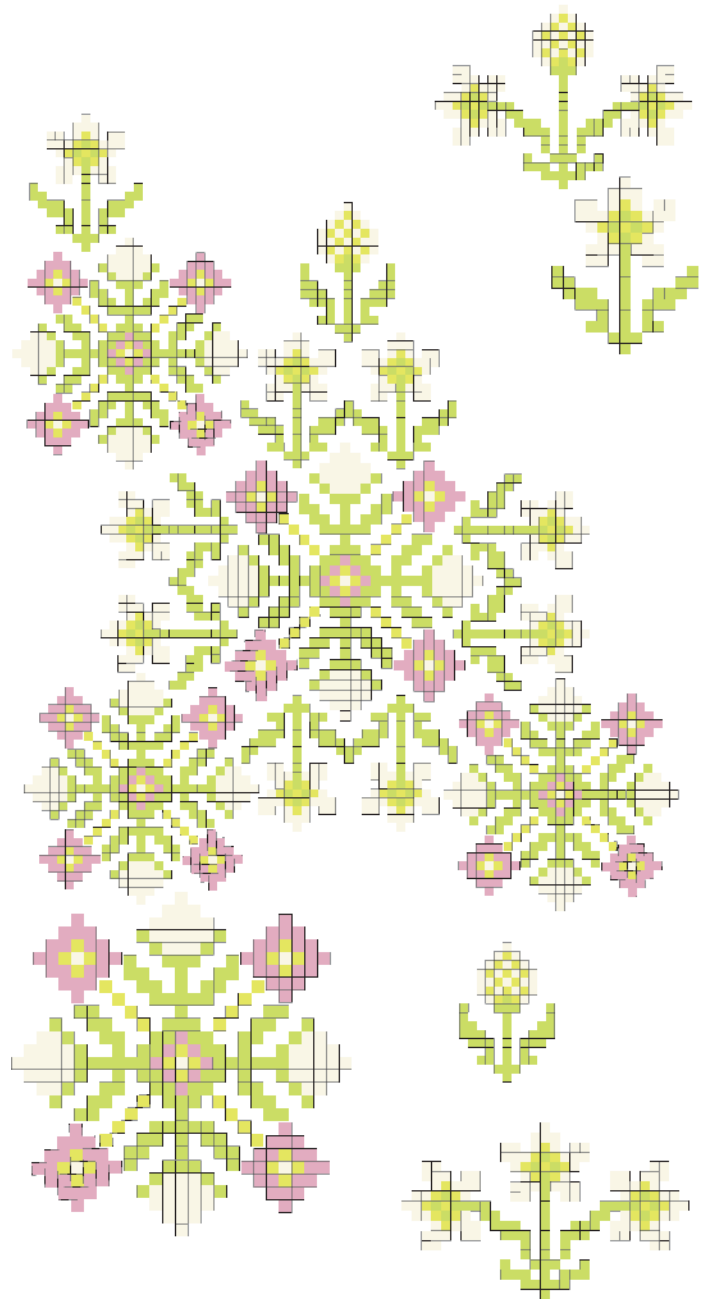
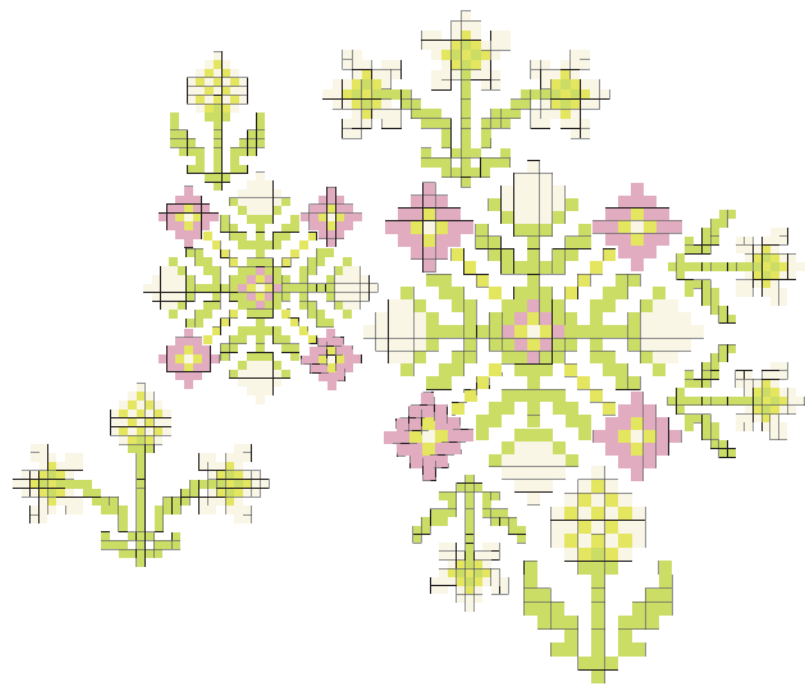
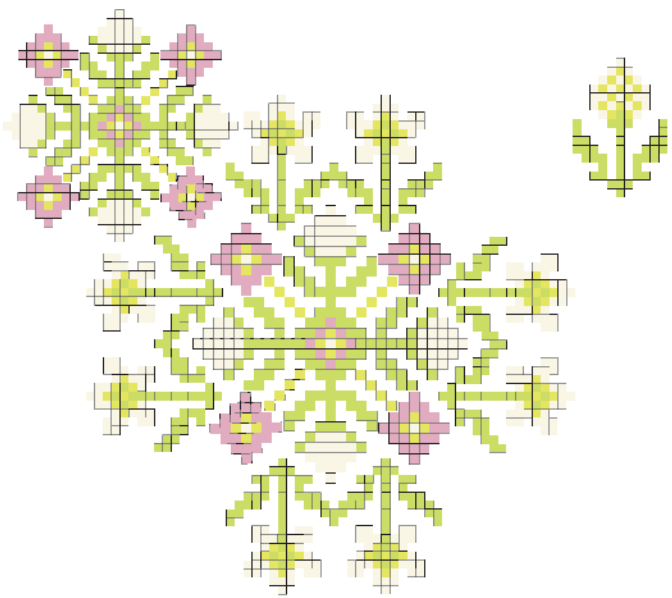
Jasmine | मोगरा



The sweet familiar fragrance of home, memories and celebration. The jasmine flower, reminiscent of South India, brings to mind thoughts of visits to flower markets, of weddings and celebrations, of garlands worn in women's hair, and of the buds blooming in our gardens. It is one of my favorite scents. I play with transparency, light, distortion and pattern to elevate the delicate, feminine, airy aesthetics of its scent and its memories.



JASMINE





Jasmine I
36" x 54"

Machine embroidery on silk organza with jasmine scented waxed cotton yarn, dyed with hibiscus, beetroot, indigo and turmeric












Textiles for Aroma Therapy.

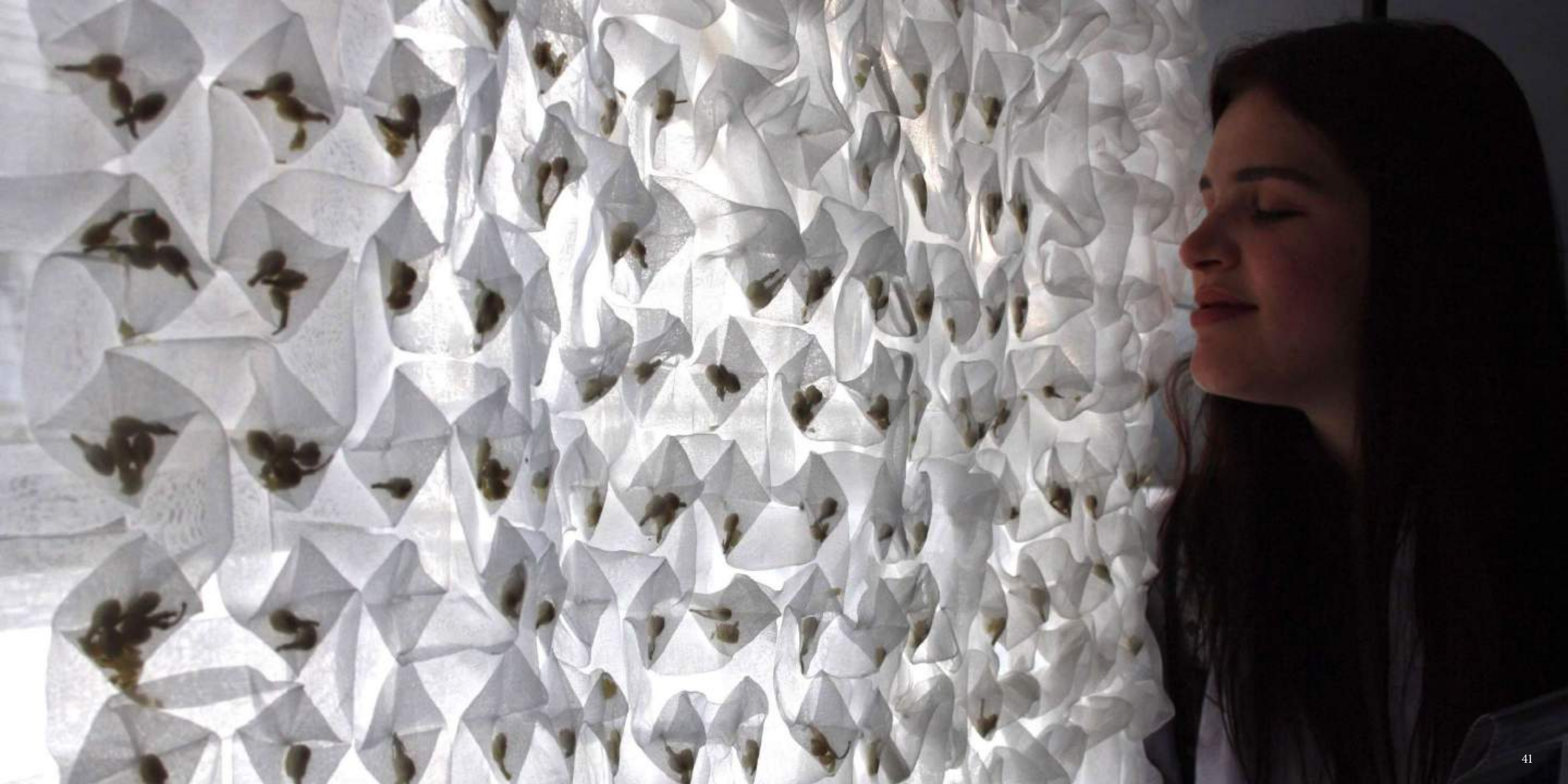
Scented room dividers and curtains that create a soothing and calming ambience and can be used in spaces for healing and wellness.



Jasmine II
42" x 44"

Un dyed silk organza, jasmine buds
| Accessible embedded pockets to
replace the buds when the scent
fades away or change them with a
new fragrance |







Rose | गुलाब

The overwhelming smell of roses at the flower market that evokes feelings of love, happiness and passion. Rose garlands that adorn our deities at temples, the exchange of garlands between the bride and groom at weddings and the sweet smelling rose bush in my parents terrace garden.



ROSE

Natural dyeing

Natural dyes and extracts can produce a range of colours. Each recipe produces a different shade, intensity and saturation. The beauty lies in not knowing what to expect and the surprise is left to nature as the collaborator.





Rajo Quebracho + heat (12/1)
Iron + Alum Sulphate
organza silk



Rajo Quebracho (5/1)
hot water
Alum sulphate
organza.



Rose Tint
Experiments
on silk organza.
(Natural
dye)



Rajo Quebracho (12/1)
Safflower (10/1)
+ Iron + heat
Alum Sulphate



Rajo Quebracho (5/1)
Safflower (5/1)
hot water Alum Sulphate









Roses in bloom : A series of natural dye experiments

Organza silk dyed with combinations of Rojo Quebracho, safflower, red sandalwood and iron and hand embroidered with rose scent coated cotton yarn



Rose

Handwoven pre dyed handspun recycled
sari silk and rose
scented wax beads dyed with
beetroot, hibiscus, chilli
and cutch








Rose II
30" x 22"

Handwoven pre dyed handspun
recycled sari silk and rose
scented wax beads dyed with
beetroot and hibiscus, chili
and cutch



Rose I
20" x 30"

Handwoven pre dyed handspun
recycled sari silk and rose
scented wax beads dyed with
beetroot and hibiscus, chilli
and cutch

A close-up photograph of a person's hands. The left hand holds a small, clear plastic spray bottle with a blue pump. The right hand is extended, and a fine mist of liquid is being sprayed onto the inner forearm. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a hint of a body of water.

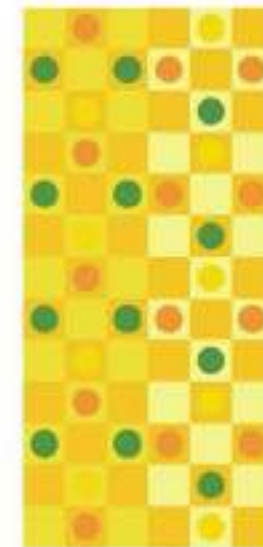
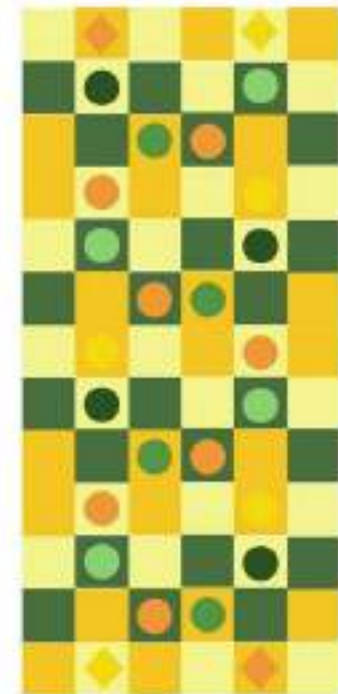
Pungent, lemony and slightly sweet. I associate this fragrance with my school days, the citronella candles we lit on our terrace on humid summer evenings and the carefree times at summer camp, where we doused ourselves with odomos bug repellent to keep the mosquitoes away.

Citronella





CITRONELLA



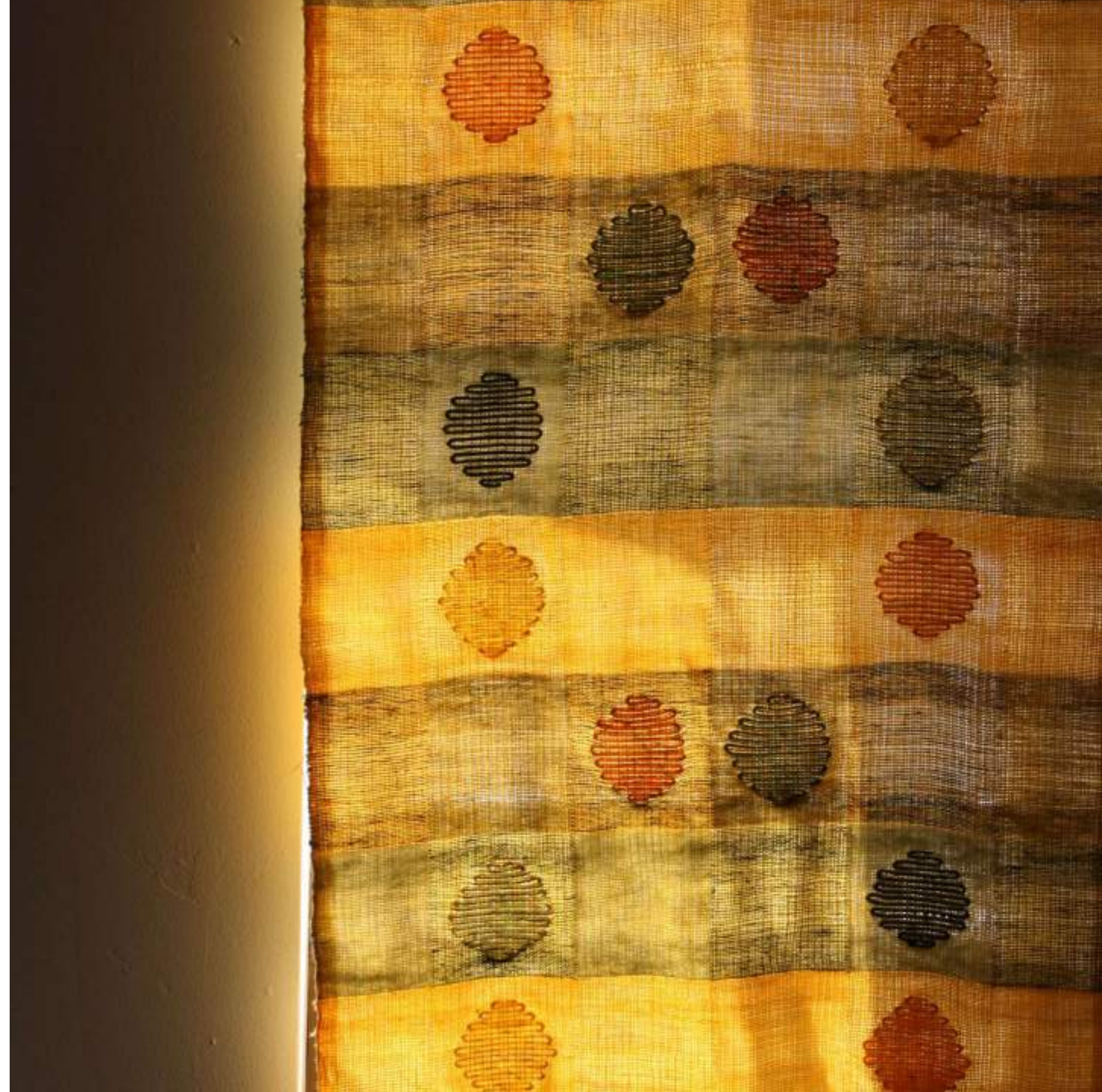
Citronella I

Handwoven pre dyed cotton on 8 shaft handloom using citronella scented waxed yarn as supplementary weft dyed with turmeric, indigo and chilli











Citronella II

Handwoven pre dyed cotton on 8 shaft handloom using recycled sari silk and citronella scented waxed yarn dyed with turmeric, indigo and chilli









कस्तुरी कुंडल बसै, मृग धूँदै वन माहि
ऐसे घट घट राम है, दुनिया देखे नाहि

मृग के नाभि में कस्तुरी रहता है पर वह जंगल में ढूँढ़ते रहती है।
ईश्वर सर्वत्र वर्तमान है परंतु दुनिया उन्हें देख नहीं पाती है।

Kasturi kundali basai, mrig dhundai van mahi
Aaise ghat ghat Ram hain , duniya dekhe nahi.

The musk is in umbilicus , the deer searches in the forest
Same way God is omnipresent , the world does not see Him.

-Kabir Das



Vetiver | खस

The layered, grounding, woody scent of the first rains hitting the parched summer earth. The roots of vetiver, a perennial bunch grass native to India, releases a complex aroma and a natural cooling effect when activated with water. Bringing Vetiver into urban spaces by taming its wildness through embroidery and weaves and introducing a sense of delicateness, fragility and dimension.



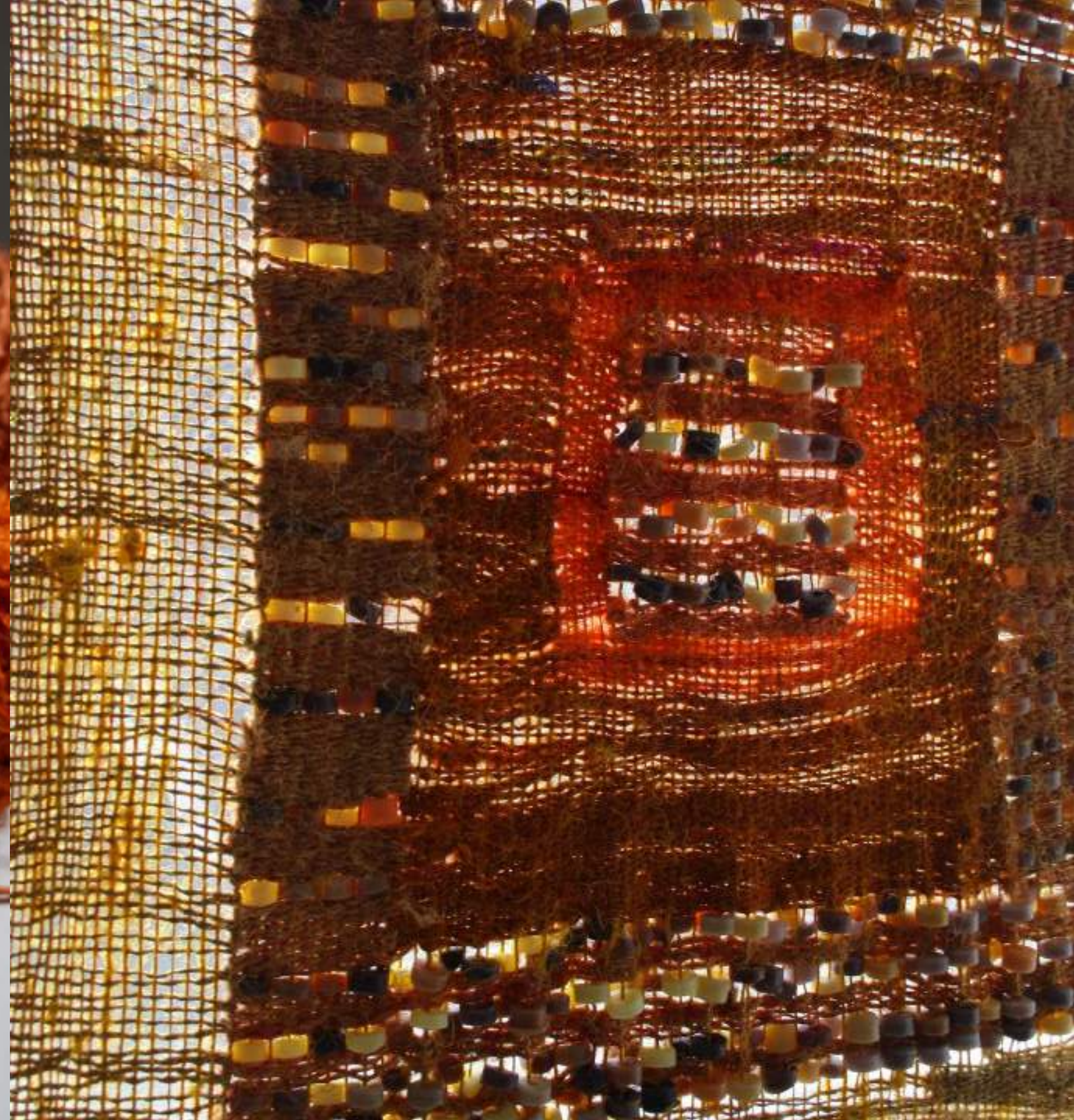
VETIVER

Bead Molding

3D printed mold with PLA, cast with silicon for producing wax scented beads



Recycled handspun sari silk sourced from Bangalore
and handspun in Bhagalpur, Bihar





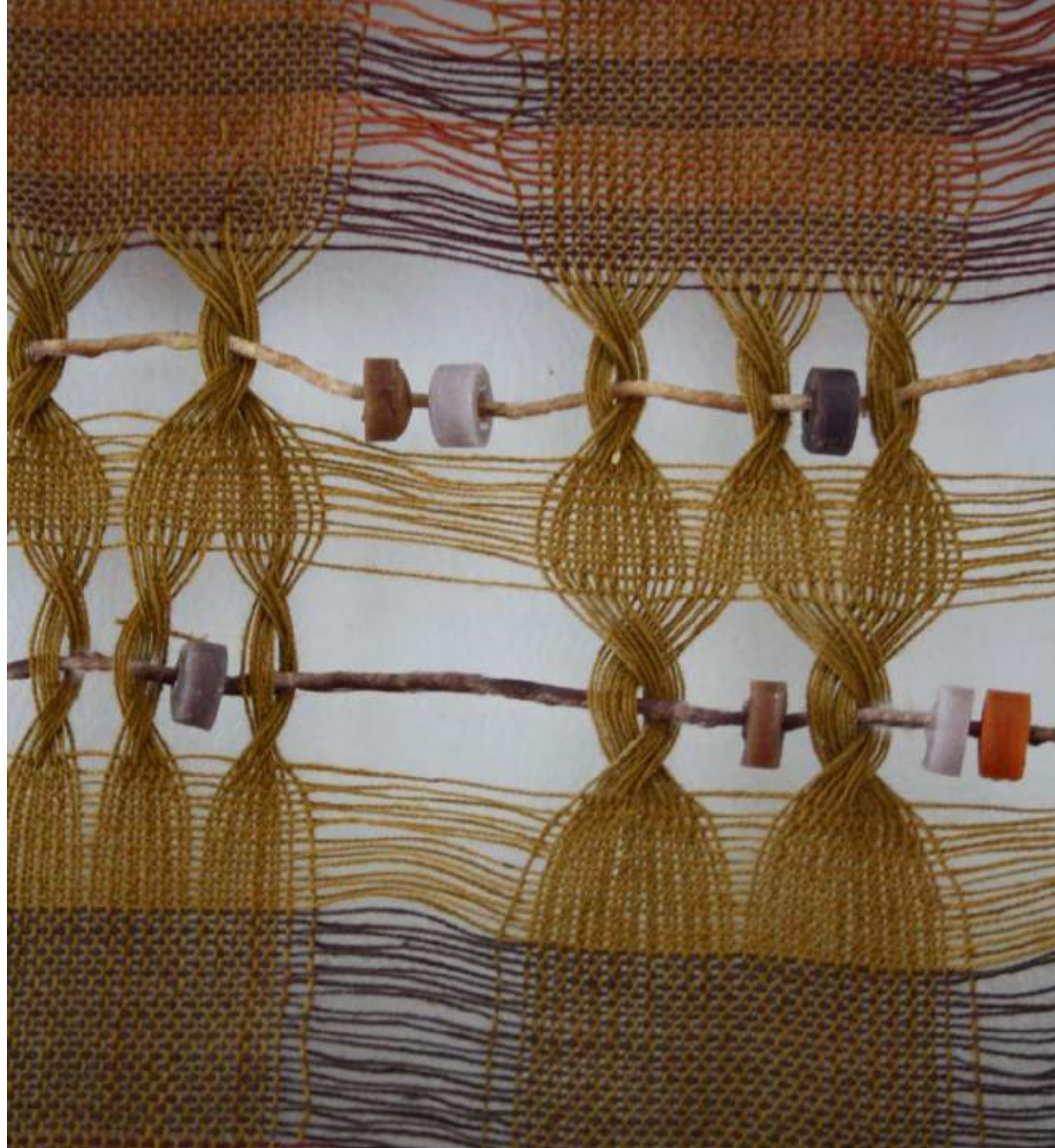
Vetiver I
20" x 14"

Pre dyed handspun sari silk
with vetiver scented wax beads
dyed with cutch, turmeric and
chilli

Vetiver II
44" x 20"

Pre dyed cotton, vetiver root,
vetiver scented wax beads
dyed with cutch, turmeric, chilli





Vetiver III
32" x 20"

Handwoven cotton, vetiver
scented wax beads dyed with
cutch, tumeric, chili





Vetiver IV

Vetiver root embroidered with pre dyed mercerized cotton with motifs of earth, life fertility and harvest brought by rain to symbolize its fragrance.



Vetiver is a fragrant perennial bunch grass native to India. It releases a unique scent of wet earth that is intensified when activated with water. The dry root is often used in India as a natural air-conditioner for its cooling and humidifying effects.

Taming the wildness of vetiver root through embroidery and introducing a sense of delicateness, fragility and dimension, while retaining its natural earthiness.



Vetiver IV
18" x 24"



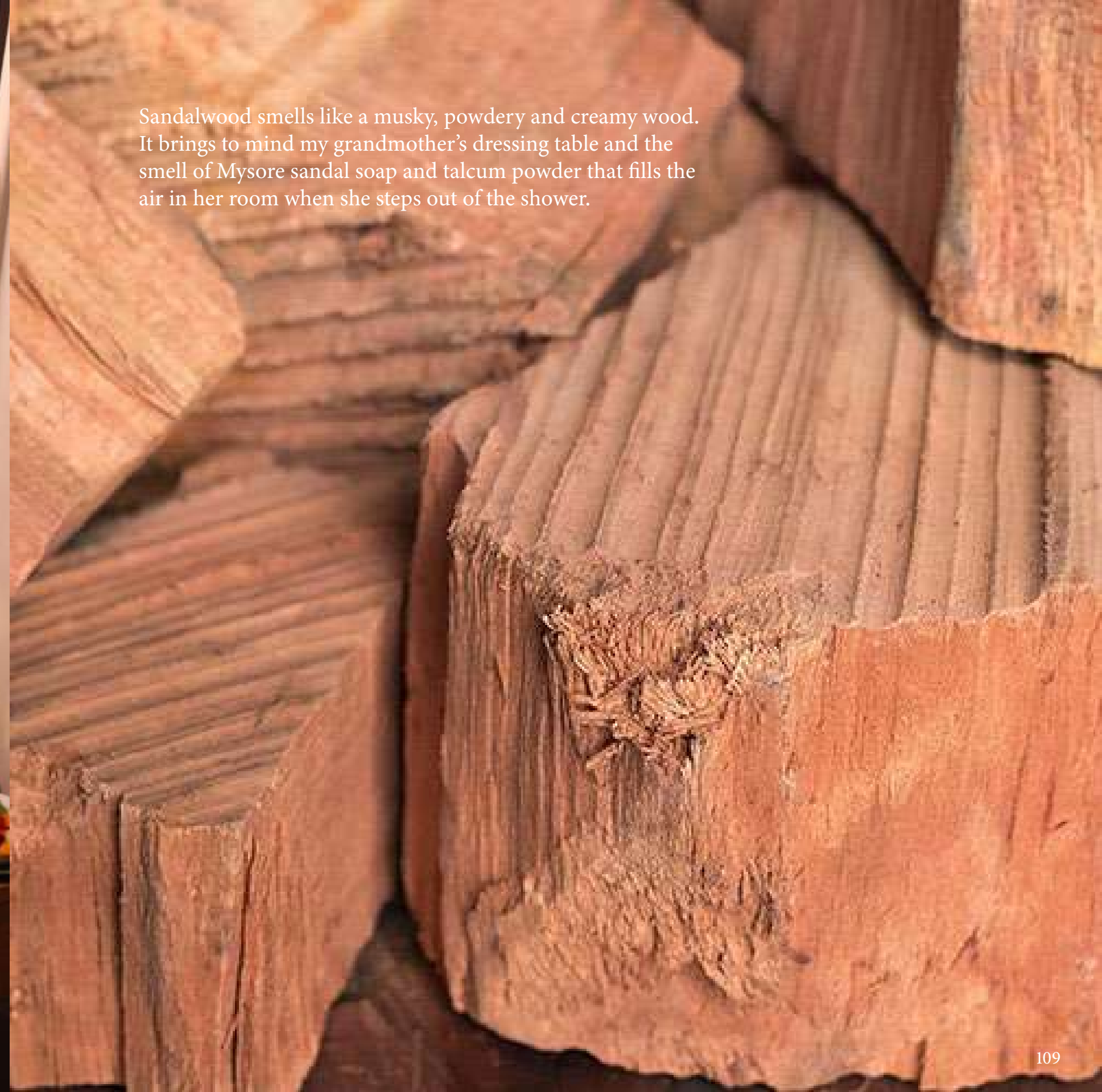






Sandalwood | चंदन

Sandalwood smells like a musky, powdery and creamy wood. It brings to mind my grandmother's dressing table and the smell of Mysore sandal soap and talcum powder that fills the air in her room when she steps out of the shower.



SANDALWOOD







Walnut - 10%
+ Heat
Mordant - Alum Sulphate



Rajo Quebracho - 10%
+ Iron + Heat
Alum Sulphate



Rajo Quebracho - 10%
Walnut - 7%
Iron + Heat
Alum Sulphate



Madder - 7%
Cutch - 10%
+ Heat Alum Sulphate







Sandalwood

Handset and machine embroidered sandalwood scented waxed cotton yarn dyed with cutch and beetroot over layered organza fabrics dyed with cutch, rojo quebracho, walnut, madder and iron



Scented Textile Wall Coverings

Fragrant and naturally dyed wallpaper/coverings
that envelops you in your favorite scent

Clove | लवंग



The sweet and spicy scent of cloves reminds me of the spice rack in our kitchen at home, the tempering of our curries, the chewing of clove during a toothache. This fragrance is reminiscent of home and the holidays.

CLOVE





- ombone (plain weave)
- Twill



- flexible
- moldable



Natural fibers especially protein-based fibers like silk and wool are often prone to moth infestations that can cause damage to precious and expensive fabrics. Scents such as clove, rosemary and lavender are natural pest repellants. Inspired by the ritual of keeping cloves in cupboards to preserve silk saris, scented woven wrappings can be used to help preserve such textiles and keep moths at bay.



Clove cases

Handwoven clove scented waxed cotton yarn dyed with beetroot, hibiscus, cutch and chili





