

Greetings all ye wool artists

I'm so excited about the response I'm getting to my "story rug" book project (for Stackpole Publishers, Rug Hooking Magazine Book Club). With a deadline still a ways ahead—but moving closer by the day!—I'd like to invite hookers to keep your photos coming.

First, here are some details pertaining to a definition of a "story rug"

- Simply put, rugs that tell a story *show* a story. This usually comes down to details, details, and more details—all of which convey action or the drama of the story being told. Another way of putting it is that story rugs are "narrative" in theme, similar in many ways to a book illustration.
- Story rugs can present themselves in various ways. One type way might show episodes or vignettes of a story all on one rug (such as depicted on rugs referred to as "Azeri" style). Or, a story might continue through a series of rugs to convey a sequence to events. (The series might focus on, say, six rugs about an era of family history.). A story might be designed to evolve and "revolve" on a footstool as its upholstery, or on stair risers as a timeline of a family's history in a house. In essence, story rugs can take as many forms as we know of all hooking projects.
- Story rugs fit into all sorts of narrative categories. Family events, a personal journey, historical interest, mythical illustration, re-worked fairy tale—the options are limited only by the artist's imagination, enjoyment of hooking a story, and desire for self-expression.

If you've hooked a rug that seems to fit into this framework please, *please* don't be shy. Send a photo and we'll go from there.

- **About the image file:** I'd appreciate your sending the photo of your story rug as an attachment to an e-mail with "story rug" in the subject line.

In the message itself, it would be helpful to provide the usual details: title, dimensions, cut(s), fiber content, backing fabric, year completed, and a bit about the story it shows.

Even if the photo isn't the best quality yet, why not send it along anyway to see where it might fit.

Send to: **Paulette Hackman**, at this e-mail address:

phackman@stny.rr.com

If you don't use e-mail, you can call me at 607-729-2198 and we'll discuss it
Or snail mail to: Paulette Hackman, 59 Grand Blvd, Binghamton, NY, 13905

***** Here are a couple of examples of story rugs:

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artists.]

This rug conveys the merriment of a Chicago July 4th, circa 1960s. The action and details are such that they present the story—even an imagined story—to whomever views it.



“Daughters of the Northern Lights,” is adapted from an old Arts and Crafts textile created by a Norwegian artist. I loved the mystical nature of the scene. Ultimately, though, I’ve been happy enough making up my own story to fit these three sisters beset by polar bears in the middle of a dark, starry night. You too can make up a story to go with the scene.