

# Bauhaus textiles

## Josef & Anni Albers

Josef & Anni Albers were both artistic adventures and pioneers of twentieth-century modernism. Josef was an influential teacher, writer, painter and color theorist, now best known for the homages to the square he painted between 1950 and 1976.

Anni Albers was a textile designer, weaver, writer and printmaker. Anni came to the Bauhaus as a young student in 1922. She entered the weaving workshop because it was the only one open to her, but she soon found her way. At the Bauhaus textile workshop, Anni experimented with new weaving materials and executed richly colored design on paper, for wall hangings and textiles in silk, cotton and linen yarns in which the raw materials and components of structure became the source of beauty. Josef and Anni Albers were Bauhaus thinkers and designers, creating Europe's new world vision, based on the promise that high quality design of everyday objects could improve the lives of every person. These aspirations led the Albers to become refugees from the Nazis in Germany, to flee to New York. They were allowed to follow their vision as some of the first professors at Black Mountain College in North Carolina. A decade after Anni Albers' death, she is the subject of a retrospective at the Cooper Hewitt Museum in New York.

Gunta Stölzl was a German textile artist who played a fundamental role in the development of the Bauhaus school's weaving workshop. As the Bauhaus's only female master she created enormous change within the weaving department as it transitioned from individual pictorial works to modern industrial designs. She joined the Bauhaus as a student in 1920, became a junior master in 1927 and a full master the next year. She was dismissed for political reasons in 1931, a year before the Bauhaus closed under pressure from the Nazis.

The textile department was a neglected part of the Bauhaus when Ms. Stölzl began her career, and its active masters were weak on the technical aspects of textile production. She soon became a mentor to other students and reopened the Bauhaus dye studios in 1921. After a brief departure, Stölzl became the school's weaving director in 1925

