

Harriet Giles is a hand weaver working near Slate Mills, Virginia. Through her company name, The Weavery, she designs and weaves rag rugs in historically inspired designs as well as contemporary ones. Room-size rugs are the main focus of her work, most of them commissioned on a custom basis. She also produces a line of unique area and throw-size rugs as well as rag totes, placemats and table runners.

“I taught myself to weave when my husband and I lived in Rappahannock County in the seventies. I create rugs on wooden hand-loom the same way that weavers have done for centuries. I cut fabric into strips, wind them on shuttles, and weave them into a groundwork of loom-controlled threads on looms up to twelve feet wide. My designs include densely warped bold stripes and dynamic plaids as well as subtle, intricate twills and rep weave. I use strips of floral and printed fabric as well as solid to achieve a rich color blend. Manipulating the interaction of color in the warp and weft, I work at a level of sophistication that gives the functional a place in creative interiors.”

My studio is just over the county line in Culpeper County. Visitors are welcome to come by appointment to see how I weave rugs and totes, including room size rugs I weave on a twelve foot wide doobby loom. Rug and handbag collections are also posted on <https://theweavery.com/>.