

All Part of the Same Family

Moroccan Textile-Centric Media-List

Reading beyond the guidebooks, Culture Vultures invites visitors to Morocco to immerse themselves in the rich narratives and complexities of Moroccan culture, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation that goes beyond the surface.

Books

1. **Amazigh Arts in Morocco: Women Shaping Berber Identity. Cynthia Becker** **ISBN: 9780292721371**
Provides a comprehensive examination of the role of women in shaping Amazigh (Berber) identity through arts in Morocco. Through meticulous research and insightful analysis, Becker illuminates the significant contributions of Amazigh women to the preservation and expression of Amazigh cultural heritage, offering a nuanced understanding of the complexities of Amazigh identity formation.

2. **Moroccan Carpets: A Cultural History. Brooke Pickering** **ISBN: 9781856691468**
An exploration into the captivating realm of Moroccan carpet weaving, uncovering the profound artistry, symbolism, and rich historical tapestry woven into each intricate design. The study navigates the intricate patterns and techniques that define Moroccan carpet weaving, tracing its evolution through time. It sheds light on the cultural significance embedded in the symbolism of motifs and colors, offering a deeper understanding of how these carpets serve as both functional pieces and cultural artifacts.

3. **Moroccan Textile Embroidery Isabelle Denamur** **ISBN: 9782080111739**
Centered on the intricate world of Moroccan textile embroidery, this book examines its profound cultural and artistic significance. Denamur sheds light on the rich tradition, showcasing the skillful craftsmanship, symbolism, and historical narratives woven into each stitch. Beyond a mere craft, Moroccan textile embroidery emerges as a vibrant cultural expression, adapting and evolving through generations. The study explores regional variations, acknowledging the diversity within this tradition, and emphasizes its role as both an artistic form and a symbol of identity and heritage.

4. **Women Artisans of Morocco: Their Stories, Their Lives. Susan Schaefer Davis** **ISBN: 9780999051719**
Reveals the stories of twenty-five women preserving ancient textile traditions in Morocco. Focused on the artisans' voices themselves, the book highlights their crucial role in family income, portraying their resilience and independence. From rural villages to bustling cities and a desert oasis, readers gain insights into the lives of these women who contribute significantly to Morocco's cultural richness. An important ethnographic insight into traditional women's crafts and their lives.

Academic Articles

i.**Textiles, Craft, and Precarity in Colonial and Post-Colonial Morocco" Claire Nicholas** compares fair trade and development perceptions of craft, French colonial analyses, and the narratives of contemporary Moroccan artisans, investigating the tension between the perceived dignity of craft and the economic precarity artisans actually face. Available as a free PDF via Academia.edu

ii. **Rationalizing Cooperation: Moroccan Craft, Politics, and Education, Claire Nicholas**, Anthropology & Education Quarterly — looks at how female artisans, newly organized as a cooperative, navigate the ambivalent status of traditional knowledge within a modernizing economy. Wiley paywalled, but relevant if you want something that speaks directly to cooperative life, which ties back to your own work with cooperatives.

iii. **The Social History of Fez Jews in the Gold-Thread Craft between the Middle Ages and the French Colonialist Period (16th–20th centuries)**, **Shai Srougo**. Middle Eastern Studies. The study traces the social history of Jewish entrepreneurs in the gold-thread craft of Fez, from the arrangements that turned gold-thread making into a defined Jewish craft through to its decline under French colonialism. It establishes that Jews were the founders of the gold-thread craft in Fez, contributing the economic and human capital that developed goldsmithing techniques and implanted a distinct local style.

iv. **Amazigh Textiles and Dress in Morocco: Metaphors of Motherhood, Cynthia Becker (with Hamid Kachmar)**, African Arts, expands on portions of Becker's book Amazigh Arts in Morocco. It looks at how Amazigh women in the Ait Atta group use textiles and dress as expressions of cultural identity and, per the title, motherhood specifically, tying weaving symbolism to fertility and social role.





Documentaries

a. **With Rugs Unfurled** by **George Bajalia and Tom Casserly** a 20-minute self-produced documentary that explores the intricate social dynamics surrounding artisan rug production in Morocco. The film traces the journey of Moroccan rugs from the meticulous process of mounting handspun wool on the loom to the bustling negotiations in high-end bazaars. It sheds light on the challenges faced by traditional rug-making due to pressures from imported products, the tourism market, and cultural disinterest, highlighting the socio-economic conditions and gender roles within this industry.

b. Gold Brocade Weaving in Fez, Morocco made for **Centraal Museum Utrecht** and the Ambacht in Beeld Festival, filmmakers **Wendy van Wilgenbur**g and **Arne Verbrugh** documented the craft of gold brocade weaving. This is a proper short documentary, professionally made, not just a craft-demo clip, and it follows Abdelkader Ouazzani, one of Fez's last few brocade masters, whose story is genuinely striking.

c. Mustapha the Weaver by **Sam Lardner** and produced by **Culture Vultures.** A short documentary following Mustapha Lghomari, a master weaver in Sefrou, whose family has practised weaving across several generations. The film explores his dedication to the craft and the challenges of preserving traditional Moroccan weaving in a changing world.



Journalism

1. **As Europe bans destroying unsold clothes, Morocco prepares for the ripple effects - Hespress** 25 July 2026
New EU rules banning the destruction of unsold clothing stock could shift how used textiles flow into Morocco, already one of Europe's largest destinations for exported second-hand clothing. The piece looks at what that ripple effect might mean on the ground.

2.**Morocco's textile waste recycling sector could attract $1.9 billion, IFC says, Hespress** 10 June 2026
Morocco's textile recycling sector could pull in up to $1.9 billion in private investment and create over 30,000 jobs, per an IFC pilot programme run with the Ministry of Industry, AMITH, and the Spanish and Dutch embassies. The pilot converted 427 tons of textile off-cuts into new production material and sent another 2,400 tons into recycling, beating its own targets.

3.**The article Sara Ouhaddou in Menifesta magazine** explores the artists' use of Moroccan craft and traditional knowledge within contemporary art, focusing on cultural exchange, artisan communities and the preservation and reinterpretation of forgotten histories

Podcast

A. Amina Agueznay the Moroccan multidisciplinary artist representing Morocco at this year's Venice Biennale, discusses her approach to Moroccan craft, her collaborations with artisans, and how traditional techniques can be reinterpreted through contemporary art & design.

B. Travelling in the High Atlas Mountains. Textile researcher Irene Waggener discusses her research into knitting in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, where men traditionally knitted socks and leggings while herding sheep. The episode explores oral patterns, locally spun wool and the distinctive gender roles surrounding Moroccan knitting traditions.

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