

fastforward

Judy Ross with her new chain-stitched Boxstep and Open Squares pillows and Procession tufted-wool carpets. See Resources.

shapingUp

Judy Ross goes geometric

It isn't difficult to detect the former painter in Judy Ross. After experimenting with influences from Indian to Arts and Crafts, the designer is now demonstrating her art-school provenance via a line of embroidered pillows, rugs, bedcovers, fabric panels, and runners that borrow from 20th-century masters. The loopy lines on her pillows recall the canvases of Brice Marden, and scarves with interlocking squares suggest Mondrian by way of Marimekko.

"Usually I go with subdued colors and strong accents, like olive with a shot of blue," says Ross, who works mostly from her own sketches. "There's an imperfect, nuanced feeling to the

pieces." The embroidery owes its subtle shading to the ancient chain-stitch technique, which "makes for a richness not available with something like an appliqué."

Ross is currently collaborating with her friend Laurie Simmons, a multimedia artist, by making hand-stitched diminutive versions of her pillows and rugs for 5,000 dollhouses (they will also contain tiny Cindy Sherman photos and Dakota Jackson furniture). As of next January, her linen panels and tufted-wool rugs will be on view at Philadelphia's Sundance Cinemas, the first of a series of film-restaurant-retail complexes that Robert Redford envisions for sites across the country. **Eugenia Santiesteban**