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The Avenir Institute of Textile Arts and Fashion's first symposium, *From Workshop to Nomad: New Thinking about Rug Weaving Categories and Design Influences*, will explore rugs and the various weaving cultures of West Asian carpets, inspired by the *Rugged Beauty: Antique Carpets from Western Asia* exhibition, currently on view at the Denver Art Museum.

Though prevailing ideas about these categories have been important and useful to the study of these textiles, the current models of producing rugs are often ambiguous and do not account for the complex cultures and economies of the people who create them. Usage of the word "tribal" as a rug-making category comes into question, as does the classification "village." Speakers will address these issues through the lens of three main categories of rug weaving (tribal/nomadic, workshop, and village, including prayer rugs) and potentially suggest directions for future study.

**Saturday, March 25th, 2023**

## SPEAKERS

**Sumru Belger Krody**, Senior Curator, The Textile Museum Collection, The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum A Way of Looking: Perception and Meaning of Prayer Carpets

**James Opie**, independent scholar What is "Tribal"? Variations and Art History in Persian Nomadic and Village Weavings

**Raoul Tschbull**, independent scholar The Sources and Evolution of Field Designs in 19th Century Transcaucasian Village Pile-Woven Rugs

**Paul Ramsey**, visiting scholar for Rugged Beauty: Antique Carpets from Western Asia Not-so-Rugged: Some Alluring Aspects of Workshop Carpets in the Rugged Beauty: Antique Carpets from Western Asia exhibition

**Please join In-Person or Virtually**

<https://www.denverartmuseum.org/en/calendar/2023-avenir-institute-symposium>