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The Golden Thread Fabric of Life - Textile Arts in Bhutan Kassia St. Clair Karin Altmann

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book authority 36 best textile design ebooks of all time a briskly told 30 000 year history of textiles that will make you rethink your relationship with fabric elle decoration from colorful threads found on the floor of an ancient georgian cave to the indian calicoes that fueled the industrial revolution the golden thread illuminates the myriad and fascinating histories behind the cloths that came to define human civilization the fabric for example that allowed mankind to shatter athletic records and the textile technology that granted us the power to survive in space exploring the enduring association of textiles with women s work kassia st clair spins a rich social history that also reflects the darker side of technology rachel newcombe washington post

this extensive work dedicated to the unique textile art of bhutan is an impressive illustration of how closely art spirituality and life are interwoven in the last of the buddhist kingdoms in the himalayas it gives new insight into bhutanese cosmology worldview culture and society which is associated with a variety of historical philosophical religious social and artistic perspectives the remote mountain location low key foreign policy and basic principles of buddhism has made it possible for bhutan the last of the buddhist kingdoms in the himalayas to preserve a remarkable form of textile art that is interwoven with all aspects of life karin altmann shows us bhutan textiles in their diversity they are clothes and everyday objects currency and commodity mark important events as gifts during life and are testament to the social status of a person but they are also an integral aspect of religious festivals dances and rituals that provide insight into the mystical and religious beliefs of the bhutanese people and reflect the concept of gender in bhutanese society the book also tells the story of a country that is searching for a sensitive balance between tradition and progress in a globalized world

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