

## MARGILAN FABRICS

Being situated in the Great Silk Road, Margilan played a pivotal role in cultural exchange and economical cooperation. Producing and distribution of Margilan silk fabrics to Europe from Asia were developed in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC. It was basement for further development of weaving art of atlas and adras in Margilan. From the ancient time atlas and adras were one of the ancient kinds of fabric of Uzbek people. The technology of adras and atlas making is considered to be complex work and it has been preserved until nowadays.



Only natural ingredients are used in dyeing and weaving of the fabrics. Roots, fat of plants and natural mixtures are used for preparing natural colors for fabrics. Margilan Crafts Development Centre was established to preserve the disappearance of artisan schools and transmit the tradition of adras and atlas making, at the newly restored — Sayyid Ahmad Huja Medressah in Margilan in 2007. The Following masters represent the Margilan Crafts Development Centre: Rasuljon Mirzaakhmedov and Rakhimjon Mirzaakhmedov (both represent 9<sup>th</sup> generation of craftsmen), Alisher Akhmadaliev and Makhmudjon Tursunov (both represent 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of craftsmen), Sherzodjon Goziyev (2<sup>nd</sup> generation of craftsmen).

In Margilan, more than 500 individual artisans and knowledge bearers are busy with weaving atlas, adras, beqasam and silk fabrics. More than 3000 people assisting artisans (family members) are involved in various stages, beginning from breeding silk-worms and











finishing with final products. Great opportunities were created by the Government of Uzbekistan for revitalization and development of craftsmanship by the resolution to abolish tax payment for artisans.

The Centre is aimed at teaching the handicrafts (the arts of silk and wool carpets weaving, ikat weaving, block printing and embroidery) and revival of traditions of individual masters and their workshops. Master of the Center is Mr. Rasuljon Mirzaakhmedov





(9<sup>th</sup> generation of artisans), who has been awarded in the past with “the UNESCO Seal of Excellence” for revival of the weaving technique of Bukhara silk velvet ikat “*A’lo bakhmal*”.

The Center has contract with different educational establishments of Margilan which are specialized to traditional craftsmanship. Thus, annually about 100 young people learn the secrets of ancient atlas and adras making, technologies of natural dyeing, enhance their skills and creativity.

