



UNKNOWN ARTISTS

IN A BRIEF MOMENT WHEN NOBODY'S LOOKING, USUALLY IN A MATTER OF MERE MINUTES, THE WALLS OF HOUSES ARE SPRAYED WITH GRAFFITI. PEOPLE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED FOR A LONG TIME THAT, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, SUCH GRAFFITI IS AN EXCITING WORK OF ART, A POWERFUL EXPRESSION OF THE ZEITGEIST AND THE MOOD OF AN ENTIRE GENERATION – NOT JUST SMEARS OF PAINT.

In the UNKNOWN ARTISTS collection, Jan Kath has now brought the designs of unknown graffiti artists from New York City, Los Angeles and other major cities onto carpets, raising the curtain on a new stage for street art. Even the finest gradation of color is reproduced using some 150,000 knots per square meter, taking four experienced carpet weavers three months to create the elaborate fabric mural out of wool and silk. "I get the inspiration for my carpets when I am traveling around the world," explains Kath. He shows an equal interest in

traditions that are hundreds of years old and contemporary underground culture. "I try to bring these two worlds into contact. I am fascinated by the power and decisiveness of graffiti artists. Kyle Clarkson, my friend and business partner from New York who also manages our showroom in Manhattan, discovered and photographed many of these works. By copying the feats of anonymous artists using an elaborate manual process, we aim to give their work a new dimension and to generate new perspectives."

