

**Dyed and woven carpet, wool, designed by Artist Manjit Bawa:** We received a woven carpet purportedly by the artist Manjit Bawa for conservation at ICI-Bangalore. This particular carpet titled “Kali” has been woven using pure New Zealand wool, which is naturally pale and could be dyed with any colour. The background is Indian red, and the subject is in the natural wool colour. A cloth tape had been pasted on all four edges of the back to strengthen the edges and also acted as spacer between the carpet and the wall it would be hung on. The tape and the adhesive used for pasting it had darkened. Fungus growth was also visible on the tape. The woven signature of the artist is seen at the back of the carpet.

Apart from the dust and dirt, the major problem in the carpet was stains, due to colour bleeding from the background red dyed wool; caused probably by water seepage. Because of the water seepage, the backing cloth of the carpet had fungal growth.

The back of the carpet was cleaned using a vacuum cleaner. Dry cleaning and limited solvent cleaning was used to minimize the stains due to the bleeding of colour. The darkened adhesive was removed; the tape was replaced with a similar material, and pasted with a conservation-grade adhesive.



Before treatment



After treatment



Before treatment



After treatment



Before treatment



After treatment

