Main characteristics/features

Mae Jaem teen jok textiles refer to cotton or silk textiles that are hand woven according to conventional methods, with motifs woven in discontinuous supplementary weft cotton or silk. Mae Jaem teen jok textiles are hand-woven products with distinctive and colourful motifs.

Geographical area

The production area for Mae Jaem teen jok fabric is located in the Mae Jaem District of Chiang Mai Province, which is in the northern part of Thailand.

Production/processing

Mae Jaem teen jok textiles or Pha teen jok Mae Jaem have been hand-woven in a traditional way for many generations. The skilled family weavers are able to create sumptuous patterns without the need to plan or sketch the designs beforehand. Cotton, silk, gold or silver threads may be used as weft.

What makes this particular type of textiles stand out, is the fact that weaving and design take place at the same time. Both can be seen coming to life, right there on the loom. The jok motifs are seemingly conjured up out of thin air, rather than from the minds of the designers. Weavers use a quill or a pointed stick to pick out certain warp yarns. This is what makes the chunky colourful designs seem to spring from the textiles. All patterns are made from behind so that everything is kept neat and tight. As the textiles and patterns are so tightly woven, they cannot be broken when the fabric is washed or rubbed. The fact that the motifs and patterns come right through the cloth means that they can be enjoyed from both sides.

Source: DIP - Thailand