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Mayer Fabrics Introduces Vollis Simpson Collection

Indianapolis, IN 4.05.16 - Introducing The Vollis Simpson Collection, a unique collaboration between Mayer and Sunbrella Contract celebrating the remarkable metal sculpture artwork by the late folk artist, Vollis Simpson. The collection, featuring six individual patterns, depicts aspects of the metal sculptures known as Whirligigs, bringing these one-of-a-kind scrap metal sculptures to reality through textile design. These inspired designs are well suited for all commercial markets and available with or without a moisture barrier. The textiles are Milled in America.

Metal Strips features an interlocking geometric grid design that references the metal salvage pieces Vollis Simpson used throughout his work. Everything from cast off machine parts to toaster oven grilles and metal goblets without stems can be found in Simpson's sculptures. Pops of vibrant Vollis inspired colors are combined with tarnished metal tones in this versatile fabric. Metal Strips was inspired by whirligigs "Tricycle Globe" and "Hoops."

Reflector features a small-scale geometric with a unique construction. A bright PVC yarn is carefully woven into this handsome fabric giving it a metallic, reflective quality. The perfect coordinating texture to the larger-scale items, Reflector mimics one of the artist's key design elements. The use of thousands of reflectors allowed Simpson to illuminate his sculptures, using light in a very unique way. More literally, this fabric references Simpson's whirligig called "Reflector Box."

Signs is woven in an intricate yet dense construction that results in complex yet clearly defined colors. Bright cobalt, orange, green and yellow are blended with neutrals to produce sophisticated combinations. The fabric pattern motif features a hexagon sign motif inspired by Simpson's use of road signs in his sculptures. Signs was inspired by what is believed to be one of Simpson's earliest pieces, an abstract sculpture that isn't a whirligig or a windmill but rather resembles a satellite, and is now referred to as "Satellite Tub."

Spokes is a whimsical yet versatile pattern inspired by the most consistent theme in Vollis Simpson's work and one of the key criteria for his creations. Typically propelled by the wind, his use of wheels, bicycle spokes and blades is seen in almost all of his sculptures. Spokes offers an abstract interpretation of pieces such as "Bicycle Rider" through its use of a variety of design elements interspersed among areas of relief.

Whirligig aptly and elegantly captures the story of Vollis Simpson story in fabric form. Whirligigs float amidst a clearly colored ground creating a toile effect. The collection's statement piece, this large scale rendering features Vollis's bold, graphic colors along with a classic black and white iteration. The actual whirligigs depicts planes related to Simpson's WWII experiences as well as whirligigs "Time Machine" and "America."



Wilson is a fun and fanciful, abstract stripe named for Wilson, North Carolina, home town of Vollis Simpson and the future home of the Whirligig Park. Like pattern Reflector, Wilson serves as a complement to the collection's feature patterns or stands alone as its own statement piece. Colors range from sophisticated neutrals to vibrant combinations. The fabric is shown railroaded and can be applied as a vertical or a horizontal stripe.

History of Vollis Simpson

Capturing the fanciful yet powerful essence of Simpson's work was a challenge in that his massive pieces embody his unique intelligence and imagination combined with his amazing determination and brawn. Made from machine parts, kitchen appliances, bicycle wheels, street signs and highway reflectors, many of Simpson's structures stand up to fifty feet high. Simpson's criteria for his whirligigs was that they must be put together with a unique composition and must catch the wind in such a way as to cause the parts to move and produce sound. Simpson had a lot of experience in getting things to work. He was a World War II veteran who first built a whirligig out of parts from a junked B-29 bomber to power a washing machine while serving in Saipan. Later he looked to whirligigs to power a heating system for his house. In the early 1950's, he and some friends started a machine repair shop and specialized in fixing farm and tobacco equipment. Later they disassembled, moved and reassembled houses. In 1985, Simpson retired and found himself with a lot of free time and tons of miscellaneous machine parts. It was then that his grand repurposing project began. Simpson continued to design and build whirligigs until his death in 2013 at age 94. He created more than 30 sculptures in all. Currently, his work is being restored at the Vollis Simpson Conservation Center in Wilson, North Carolina. His whirligigs will be installed in a commemorative park scheduled to open in 2017 where they can be seen "in all of their spinning, reflecting and shining glory."

Proceeds from the sales of the Vollis Simpson Textile Collection will be donated to the Park and Conservation project.

<http://southwritlarge.com/articles/portfolio-vollis-simpson-whirligigs/>

<http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Vollis+Simpson+Whirligig+Artist&&view=detail&mid=5227D957A0CA7069B7CD5227D957A0CA7069B7CD&FORM=VRDGAR>

<https://www.facebook.com/V.S.WhirligigPark>

About Mayer Fabrics

Mayer Fabrics is a family-owned company which has been headquartered in Indianapolis since its founding in 1897. The company serves the needs of the contract market for office furniture, healthcare, hospitality, education and government entities. Distribution is achieved through a group of employee and independent sales reps throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, England and the Pacific Rim. More information is available on the web site, www.mayerfabrics.com.