

Manos del Uruguay



International Folk Art Market | Collection

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This cooperative was founded to keep textile-making traditions alive and to enable women to support their families at the same time. Even today, the process is traditional. The wool is dyed in small lots on a wood fire. Each lot is dyed up to six times. This traditional process yields a rich, complex color. The wool from Corriedale sheep is then hand spun into Clasica Wool Yarn, which is the group's signature yarn. This process injects character and beauty to the yarn, ensuring each buyer receives a truly unique piece.

The cooperative encourages the economic and personal growth of its artisans. Each piece has a tag noting the craftswoman who made it, and where the work originated. Manos del Uruguay, a not-for-profit artist collective, is organized into small cooperatives based in the rural villages where the artisans live and work. Manos, which was founded in 1968, was chosen to be a member of the World Fair Trade Organization in 2009. Today the organization employs 250 artisans in 19 Uruguayan localities. Items are made by hand, one at a time, imbuing them with meaning and individuality. Forty-five years after its founding, Manos del Uruguay remains committed to honoring its members by providing economic, social, and personal development opportunities.