



Judy Ross

In her home collection, fresh patterns and colors are always in season.

A eucalyptus

candle scenting her sunny white office and showroom, Judy Ross sits at her iMac G5 and gestures at a rainbow of hand-embroidered pillows on a table. "I like brownish gray, greenish yellow—colors that are a little offbeat," she says. "They add another dimension to a room, whether it's modern or traditional."

A New York mother of two sons, Judy studied painting, and she cites Ellsworth Kelly and Robert Mangold—minimalist artists known for their use of line, shape, and color—as influences on her accessories. However, it was craft, not art, that first inspired her. Fascinated by chain stitch, an ancient embroidery technique, she spent months living on a boat in India, searching out artisans who could produce a line of woven scarves and shawls.

Years of success gave Judy the confidence to expand into chain-stitched place mats, pillows, bed-covers, and curtain and upholstery fabrics, as well as rugs, either chain-stitched or hand-knotted. Judy Ross Home Collection patterns alternate between pared-down organics, such as vines and clovers, and purely abstract rectangles and loops. The designs quickly won appreciation from decorators, and the painter in Judy was thrilled to be recognized by the museum world, too. One of her chain-stitched runners and an embroidered linen panel now belong to the Art Institute of Chicago. ▶

36 O AT HOME SPRING 2005

Rich, offbeat colors appeal to Judy Ross, who adapted a traditional Indian embroidery technique to make pillows, bed linens, and more. Hanging behind her is a custom-made queen-size Swim duvet cover, \$2,200. BOTTOM LEFT: New Zealand wool and contemporary patterns meet in these embroidered pillows, \$180 apiece. BOTTOM RIGHT: Her embroidered handwoven wool scarves are \$220 each—throw one over your shoulder or the arm of a sofa.

