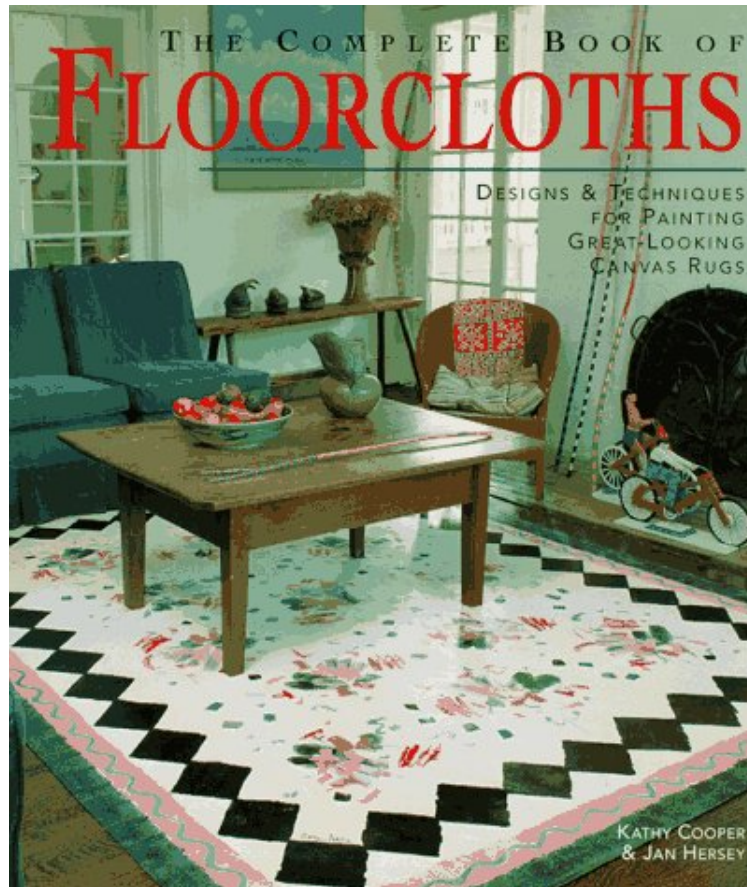


## The Complete Book of Floorcloths: Designs Techniques for Painting Great-Looking Canvas Rugs

*Kathy Cooper, Jan Hersey*

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wallsBy KcornI love making my own decorations but I like to finish projects that look tasteful and as nice (or better) than anything I could buy. You can't go wrong with this book, whether you are just starting out or looking for a larger challenge. There are some easier projects as well as ones that are more difficult. You could spend years using this book and not run out of ideas. Plenty of full-color photos, step by step directions and techniques. Worth every penny you spend on this one!

Transform a piece of canvas into the focal point of any room with water-based paints, a sewing machine, standard painting tools, and 10 simple steps. Ten projects, ranging from tight geometric patterns to free-form squiggles and whimsical shapes, can be easily completed by even the most artistically challenged. The most intricate-looking are surprisingly the easiest to make. 144 pages, 260 color illus., 50 b/w illus., 8 1/2 x 10.

From Library JournalCooper, a floorcloth artist, and Hersey, a home furnishings writer, show how decorated floorcloths can be used in today's home. Floorcloths were first used in the 18th century and continued to be popular until the early 20th century, when they were replaced by linoleum. Lavishly illustrated with examples of the works of over 60 floorcloth artists, the clear, easy-to-follow directions describe how to make a basic checkerboard-patterned floorcloth and continue with eight other projects. A directory of mail-order supply sources would have been helpful, since specialty items are recommended that may be unavailable in many areas. A good choice for medium and larger collections. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. Rather a lost art these days, floorcloths originated as a cheap floor covering in the 1700s, later mimicking the more expensive floorings such as marquetry and marble. Exported to the US from England they soon became a gentle lady's pastime, enabling them to express their artistry at the same time as ending up with something pretty and practical. Dying out with the advent of linoleum and carpets in the 1920s, it was not until a few decades ago that they were resurrected by artists as a new medium with which to showcase their skills. This fascinating how-to book starts with the floorcloths' history, proceeds to styles and techniques and then explains the basics needed to emulate them. From chequerboard to florals, abstracts to bold, a huge range of different styles are shown accompanied by in-depth instructions on how to create your own heirloom piece. No longer regarded as a poor man's carpet or crumbcatcher, they are now highly regarded, easy-to-make ornamental additions with which to adorn your home. An interesting book for any hobbyist looking for something new. - Lucy Watson