



SAKINA PERSIAN RUGS

FINE PERSIAN SILK RUGS



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High Point Market | October 17-21, 2026
Suites at Market Square | M-5024 | High Point, North Carolina

About Sakina Persian Rugs

Sakina Persian Rugs creates one-of-a-kind Persian silk rugs entirely hand-knotted using traditional Persian techniques. Each rug is individually created over many months, with millions of hand-tied knots forming intricate patterns and exceptional detail.

The collection is made from fine natural silk and produced in Armenia using traditional Persian vertical looms. Rather than mass production, Sakina focuses on a small number of distinctive pieces designed to be appreciated as textile art.

Founded by Ziba Bayat Gardner, Sakina brings together Persian artistic tradition, meticulous hand-knotting, and a commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for the women behind the rugs.



Detail from the Sakina collection.

Founder Story

Ziba Bayat Gardner

Ziba Bayat Gardner's connection to Persian rugs began in childhood. Growing up in Iran in a family with limited means, she was surrounded by the tradition of rug making through her mother, Iran Minakhani. She watched skilled women spend countless hours weaving rugs while often receiving only a small share of the value their work ultimately created.

Those experiences stayed with her. From a young age, Ziba dreamed of one day building a rug business of her own - one in which a woman would not only participate in making the rugs, but also lead the business behind them.

Trained as a mechanical designer in Iran, Ziba moved to the United States with her daughter in January 2012 on a work visa to continue her career as an oil and gas mechanical designer. She worked in the field for many years, but the dream of returning to Persian rugs never disappeared.

In 2025, after marrying Dr. John Gardner, that long-held dream began to take shape. Ziba initially imagined starting with more accessible rugs, but with her husband's encouragement and financial support, she chose a different direction: creating a small collection of exceptional, one-of-a-kind Persian silk rugs, entirely hand-knotted using traditional techniques.

That vision became Sakina Persian Rugs.

For Ziba, Sakina brings together her childhood, her mother's connection to Persian rug making, the women she watched working at the loom, her journey to America, and a dream she carried for decades.

A Tradition Across Generations



Ziba Bayat Gardner's mother, Iran Minakhani, with a hand-knotted Persian silk rug. Ziba grew up surrounded by rug making through her mother and describes her mother's family heritage as having a personal connection to the traditional Minakhani design. That connection made Persian rugs part of Ziba's story long before the founding of Sakina.

Why the Name Sakina

Sakina Persian Rugs is named in memory of Ziba Bayat Gardner's sister, Sakina. Before Ziba was born, her mother was expecting another daughter. Late in the pregnancy, her mother experienced gender-based domestic violence in a family environment where the arrival of another girl was not welcomed. The baby, whom she named Sakina, lived for only about an hour after birth. Ziba connects this painful family history to her commitment to creating opportunity and dignity for women and girls.

Although Ziba never had the opportunity to know her sister, Sakina's story remained part of her family history. Years later, Ziba chose the name Sakina as a way of giving that name a new legacy - one connected to beauty, dignity, opportunity, and women supporting their families through their own skills.

"Sakina is not only the name of my company. It is the name of the sister I never had the chance to know. I wanted her name to live through something that gives other women opportunity."

- Ziba Bayat Gardner

What Makes Sakina Different

At Sakina Persian Rugs, each piece is created as an individual work of textile art. Fine silk, traditional Persian hand-knotting techniques, exceptional knot density, and months of meticulous work allow intricate designs to emerge through millions of individually tied knots.

6.61 MILLION

hand-tied knots

645 KPSI

knots per sq. in.

22,045+ HOURS

master weaving



Anahita's Radiance

MATERIAL

Finest Grade A Silk

SIZE

Approx. 6'11" x 10'1" (210 x 307 cm)

KNOT DENSITY

660 knots per sq. in.

TOTAL KNOTS

6,613,763 individually hand-tied knots

LABOR OF ARTISTRY

Over 22,045 hours of master weaving

ORIGIN

Hand-knotted by Persian master artisans

AUTHENTICITY

One-of-a-kind | NFT-certified

A Persian Tradition, Continued in Armenia

Preserving specialized silk hand-knotting outside Iran

For decades, U.S. sanctions have restricted commercial imports of Iranian-origin carpets. After the authorization for Iranian-origin carpets was narrowed to wind-down transactions in 2018, Sakina chose a different path: the rugs in its current collection are produced outside Iran.

Founder Ziba Bayat Gardner established a production team in Armenia and brought experienced Persian silk-rug weavers there so the work could continue beyond Iran. The rugs are made in Armenia and exported from Armenia to the United States with the required commercial and cultural documentation.

Why silk hand-knotting requires exceptional skill

Fine silk demands control.

Silk filaments are extremely fine and smooth. The weaver must control tension carefully so the surface remains even and the design stays precise.

Every knot builds the image.

Working on a vertical Persian loom, the weaver ties individual knots around the warp threads, row after row. Weft threads secure the structure between rows, and the pile is carefully cut and refined.

Density leaves little room for error.

At very high knot densities, tiny changes in tension or knot placement can affect a curve, flower, line, or color transition. The skill is developed through years of practice, often beginning in childhood.



Knowledge carried by women

Many of Sakina's weavers learned rug making when they were young. Their expertise is not simply the ability to tie a knot; it is the ability to read a complex design, maintain consistent tension and density, and repeat that precision across millions of knots.

For Sakina, establishing the workshop in Armenia preserves that specialized knowledge while creating paid work for skilled women and a lawful production base outside Iran.

Press Preview

Meet Sakina Persian Rugs at High Point Market

Sakina Persian Rugs will present its collection of one-of-a-kind, hand-knotted Persian silk rugs at Fall 2026 High Point Market.

Members of the press, editors, designers, and industry professionals are invited to experience the rugs in person and meet founder Ziba Bayat Gardner to learn about the traditional techniques, extraordinary knotting, and personal story behind Sakina.



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Press appointments available upon request.

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