



Majeda Clarke is helping revive an age-old weaving practice from her home country of Bangladesh. PHOTO: THOM ATKINSON

When Majeda Clarke made the leap from teacher to weaver a few years ago, she had a lot more in mind than just a lifestyle change. Clarke, who is based in London, was born in Bangladesh, where an ancient tradition of cottage-style weaving is slowly fading. Particularly vulnerable has been the production of Jamdani muslin—a superfine cotton or silk that was all the rage in Regency England and dates as far back as Roman times, when it was called “woven air” by the writer Petronius. After learning basic Jamdani techniques, Clarke began experimenting with the traditional patterns, retooling them to broaden the audience for the diaphanous cloth. She now works with a circle of Bengali weavers who produce bespoke curtains and fabric by the yard as well as featherweight scarves, all with a delicate, calligraphic beauty. “To me, it created an incredible kind of hybridity, mixing cultures and design,” Clarke says of Jamdani and its legacy. “We can do it again.” This

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