

Focus On...



Jaime Ross

Brintons

Jaime Ross has lived in a carpet world her whole life.

For more than 20 years, her parents owned and operated a small carpet outlet outside of Dalton, Ga., where her mother kept the books and her dad was in charge of handshakes.

“Most afternoons, the school bus would drop me at their warehouse and with few choices to amuse myself, I took pieces of paper from the copy machine, climbed up onto the stock carpet rolls much like other kids were climbing up to their tree houses and proceeded to doodle until my folks were ready to close shop for the day,” Ross said. “This was such the routine, that when I grew weary, I would simply wedge

myself between two carpet rolls like a taco and take a nap.”

She never imagined putting the two together by drawing carpet patterns. But in 1993, her parents asked for her help.

“My parents were tossing around the idea of tapping into the emerging black-light bowling scene,” she said. “They asked me to quickly sketch an image of a ball knocking pins for them to use as reference. I did and they actually had the carpet made. I was proud. I felt I had contributed to the family business, however minuscule my offering.”

Years later, with a bachelor’s degree in fine arts in hand and continued ties to the carpet industry, Ross again alchemized the two worlds.

“I work with a company called Brintons,” she said. “I design custom carpets for hotels. Custom carpet design basically means that I take the foundational floor plans of a building and draw directly on top of the architecture maps much like a blank canvas. I create totally original artwork, not rigid, structured patterns common to wallpaper or fabrics.”

The most innovative and massive designs in the carpet world are created for hotel ballrooms and public space, Ross says.

For her, it’s truly a marriage of design and fine art.

—Jason Hensel

“It’s become almost a secret because she’s so darn busy with her work and social life, but Jaime is an absolutely fabulous painter. About two years ago, she did an oil-based portrait of my son when he was 2 years old that just blows folks away when they see it. It hangs in our living room and is a complete show stopper at dinner parties.”

—Ty Ross,
big brother

“Many people know Jaime as an extremely talented textile designer and artist, but what many may not know is that she is a wonderful musician! She plays ukulele, banjo and has the voice of a little bird. She’s busked the streets of Athens, Ga., as a solo musician and serenaded patrons of coffee shops and honky-tonks as a member the Jumping Jesus Christers.”

—Emily Wade,
best bud

“Jaime is that fresh breath that we need in the office when things get too serious. She plays the ukulele, wears cowboy boots with her dresses, talks in her country twang to lighten the mood and can make a turkey call that is worthy of being on *The Tonight Show!*”

—Kim Crowder,
co-worker