

Geranium Oval



When I retired, I started looking through patterns I had collected through the years and landed upon an old oval burlap I had purchased many years ago from Bob Zeiser, whose mother, Louise, was the creator of many of the beautiful Heirloom designs. I love how oval-shaped rugs seem to nest nicely in just about any space, and after looking over my long list of “wish to-dos,” I decided that it was time to tackle the *Geranium Oval*.

My very favorite colors are reds, from pure reds to orange-reds and blue-reds. I decided to make the geraniums two shades of red with green leaves on a dark background along with a spot. I'm drawn to dramatic contrasts and what better way than having red and green on black!

My friend and mentor, Nancy Blood, mailed me formulas for reds, greens, a black, and a spot on our way to the Maryland Shores Rug Hooking School in Ocean City. Nancy chose a group of dye formulas from a different teacher each year I went to the rug school, and over the years, I've learned so much from her about dyeing formulas, rug planning, and hooking techniques. I used Nancy's

technique to attain the effect of ruffling in the leaves, which I had used before on flower petals, but that added interest to what are many flat leaves.

Helen Lynch, a friend from my classes and fellow Maryland Shores traveler, offered to copy the burlap pattern onto linen for me. It's no small undertaking considering the myriad of small flowers and petals! There were five petals in each flower and approximately five to six flowers in each of the 15 blossoms (and I was putting seven to eight values in each petal), so it was a tedious process.

In 1970, my dear friend and fellow seamstress and knitter, Lyn Lovell, said to me on a family ski trip that I had to go over to Dorr Mills. She wanted to “lure” me into a new fiber art she found. I resisted as I already had an attic full of yarn and fabrics, but to please her, I bought a little doorstep kit. That evening, she showed me how to hook, and the rest is history. I find hooking meditative, like weeding my garden, which is a good thing since this rug offered me many hours to lose myself in my thoughts.



Peggy Hannum
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Peggy was a high school English teacher for 27 years and a McGown rug-hooking teacher for 20 years and is now retired from both. *Geranium Oval* appeared on the front cover of the National Guild of Pearl K. McGown newsletter in August 2018. She is a member of the Celebration Hall of Fame, and this is her eleventh appearance in Celebration.

In The Judges' Eyes: A playful, joyful, and sentimental work. Strong and effective use of gradation swatches in the foliage. Very striking color scheme; nicely shaded flowers and leaves.



Geranium Oval, 3' x 4', #3- and 4-cut hand-dyed wool on linen.
Designed by Heirloom Rugs and hooked by Peggy Hannum, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 2018. BILL BISHOP