

# Poppy Seed



A poppy is a beautiful flower, each one “popping out” from one stem and coming in an array of vivid colors—from white to red. Peggy Hannum is an avid gardener with a love of this spring flower. So what better choice than to celebrate this bloom in a rug?

This pattern from Heirloom Rugs was a perfect fit for Peggy. As a fiber artist with 30 years experience who likes fine tapestry hooking, she’d created rugs mostly from commercial patterns, especially enjoying resurrecting the old Pearl McGown and Heirloom designs.

Peggy sent Nancy Blood pictures of her poppies and Nancy returned color formulas to match what she saw in the pictures. Peggy began the rug at a camp with Nancy who color planned the rug. She also instructed Peggy in pleating and ruffling the petals, which was a technique that Peggy had never tried before. Peggy discovered that she loved trying something new in the rug realm.

The most challenging aspect of the design were the sprigs of wheat. Peggy had to hook them with a #2-cut wool to achieve the feathery look. She also outlined each of the grains with one thread of wool so that they did not all become one indistinguishable mass.

In *Poppy Seed*, our eye immediately is drawn to the flower in full bloom because of the richness in color and form. If we look closely, we can then see the flower in various stages of growth. But that was almost not the case as Peggy hooked. In fact, she almost had the rug completed when she learned an important lesson—to pay attention to the name of a rug. “I had almost finished the rug when a friend asked ‘Where are the seeds?’” recalls Peggy. “I had interpreted several indistinguishable blots as buds, so I regrouped and made them seeds, which is no doubt what they were supposed to be.”

*Poppy Seed* has been exhibited at the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen’s juried gallery show. It is now displayed in a bedroom at Peggy’s home.

## In the Judges’ Words

- Beautifully shaded; this is a masterpiece.
- Well-executed—good color planning.

## PEGGY HANNUM LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA



*Peggy Hannum’s children were astute enough to construct a website that showcases their mother’s artistic expertise. She’s had it for a year and Peggy says it’s been a delight to have her work displayed on the Internet, not to mention getting “hits” from 15 foreign countries as well as over 1,000 hits from within the United States. Peggy is a retired high school English teacher and a retired United Methodist missionary who served three years in Israel. “We have traveled for over 35 years throughout the Middle East,” says Peggy, “and I have a fascination for all rugs Middle Eastern.”*

*Poppy Seed*, 28” x 43”, #3-cut wool on linen. Designed by Heirloom Rugs. Hooked by Peggy Hannum, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 2006.

