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Gorgeous African Designs, Classic Silhouettes

Knitting Out of Africa: Inspired Sweater Designs
Marianne Isager

Loveland, Colo.: The beauty of African carpets, baskets, and other fiber and textile arts come alive in knitwear designer Marianne Isager's **KNITTING OUT OF AFRICA: INSPIRED SWEATER DESIGNS** (Interweave Press, 2006), a compiled collection of 16 knitted sweater and vest patterns inspired by Isager's firsthand visit to Africa. Many cultures of Africa are represented and respected in the patterns, such as a Shoowa vest, Kuba pullover, knitted fabrics that resemble the mud-dyeing technique from Bamana in Mali, block designs from Asante people in Ghana, and a classic Sierra Leone pullover. Africa's natural beauty is mimicked in the reversible design motifs of wildlife that include the giraffe, zebra, and flocks of birds familiar in the African landscape.

With engaging wisdom and beautiful color photography throughout, Isager's sweater patterns will inspire skilled crafters to embrace the age-old African motifs with a new and modern twist. Isager believes "The excitement of designing doesn't come from simply copying the patterns—it comes from developing a design that captures the feeling of a motif or pattern and adapting it to grace the body in a garment."

Likewise, Isager's patterns involve more advanced knitting techniques such as intarsia knitting, entrelac, double knitting, domino, and Fair Isle. All patterns include step-by-step instructions and build on a foundation with a knitting sample—where the reader is introduced to the technique, stitch by stitch, so knitters won't be intimidated.

Advanced knitters will be challenged with different technical approaches that are unfamiliar to most knitters. These new techniques bring a modern flare to the patterns, but the silhouettes are so classic that they'll retain their shape and style through the years.

Isager's exploration of African textiles and baskets that bring about the elegant patterns in **KNITTING OUT OF AFRICA** is truly inspiring. The sweaters, worked in fingeringweight yarn, are not quick to knit, but the finessed designs can be treasured for a lifetime. They make stunning additions to any wardrobe, or priceless gifts.

After my first glimpse of this book (in Danish), I could hardly contain my excitement. Marianne Isager, an imaginative and talented designer, has assembled a collection of intriguing garments, replete with her unique ideas, techniques and details—truly inspiring and beautiful knitting. —Meg Swanson, Schoolhouse Press

**KNITTING OUT OF AFRICA:
INSPIRED SWEATER DESIGNS
by Marianne Isager**

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8¾ x 11¼ • paperbound with flaps • 144 pages

53 color photographs • 30 color illustrations • 80 charts

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About the author: Marianne Isager has taught at numerous design and craft schools throughout Denmark, and has been active in the establishment of the knitting line at Skals School of Handicraft. She earned her degree as a textile designer from Copenhagen's School of Design and Handicrafts. The ideas for this book came directly from one of her sojourns in Africa. Marianne lives in Aarhus, Denmark.

About Interweave Press: In business since 1975, Interweave Press publishes magazines and books related to fiber, thread, needlework, and beads. Throughout Interweave's evolution, its publications have focused on natural materials and processes, a respect for doing, and an appreciation of the fine, simple things in life. Interweave publishes six magazines including *Beadwork*, *Handwoven*, *Interweave Knits*, *PieceWork*, *Spin-Off*, and *Fiberarts*. Interweave is dedicated to creating a resource for its readers to find the best information in the field of interest, the latest news, the best products, the newest techniques, and the history behind the techniques.

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