



From left Ismini's 'Ismini' fabric for George Spencer Designs; her 'Hidden' panelled screen; and her 'Missed for Mr Wilmot' textile on Michael Marriott's 'Missed' daybed for SCP

WORDS: SARAH SLADE PICTURE: DAVID YEO
SHOT ON LOCATION AT GODOLPHIN HOUSE, CORNWALL (01726 763194; WWW.GODOLPHINHOUSE.COM)

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Ismini Samanidou's digitally fashioned fabrics have their inspiration in the past

Most people seek out Cornwall for its sea air and pasties, but Greek-born textile artist Ismini Samanidou followed her nose there on a very different quest. In 2004, while on the hunt for a computerised jacquard loom – an industrial weaving machine designed to run off large quantities of fabric, perfect for the production of her wall hangings and bespoke textiles – she discovered the Craft Council's 'Next Move' scheme, which helps designer-makers access workspaces and equipment; it bagged her a loom and a teaching place at Falmouth College.

Like many textile designers, Ismini says it's the process of her work that interests her. She begins by taking snaps of subjects or producing photograms (images made by placing an object on photographic material in a darkroom and exposing it to light), then transfers them onto a computer, applying weave structures to patterns and creating

an artist-like palette of yarns to select from. 'The beauty of impermanence is a big inspiration for me, particularly the way that surfaces change,' she explains. This is most notable in her pieces inspired by 15th-century National Trust property Godolphin House in Cornwall, where she collaborated with upholsterer Richard Hooper to create pieces for design collective Hidden Art. Instead of focusing on the house's decorative wall tapestries, Ismini looked to their undersides and the 18th-century wallpapers they concealed: the result was 'Hidden', a panelled screen (above) with distressed patterns that exude faded glamour.

Next, she'd like to work her magic on flooring: dream commissions would come from Christopher Farr and The Rug Company. Now those would be rugs we'd like to see... *Ismini Samanidou* (07958 723196; www.isminisamanidou.com; www.hiddenartcornwall.co.uk/isminisamanidou)

Name Ismini Samanidou
Born Athens, Greece, 1977
Studied BA in Textile Design at Central St Martins College of Art & Design, London; MA in Constructed Textiles at The Royal College of Art
Works At Falmouth College, Cornwall, and from her studio at home
Likes Sunshine, small islands in the Cyclades, traditional Greek textiles
Dislikes Pretentiousness, short deadlines, old-fashioned ideas about weaves