

# Rasuljon Mirzaahmedov

## Uzbekistan

The *Ikat* weavers of Uzbekistan draw from a centuries-old tradition of Central Asian textile art that dates back to the Great Silk Road.



Rasuljon works with more than forty weavers and eight master weavers to create *Ikat* and other silk weaving. *Ikat* is the name of the style and design of the silk weaving, that is dyed through both drawing designs and tie-dyeing the fabric.



During the Soviet era, private workshops that made *Ikat* and other crafts were forced to close, and artisans were placed in factory-like organizations. When the Soviet Union was dissolved in the 1990s, traditional textiles again became important national symbols of Independent Uzbekistan. Traditionally, the designs came from nature and landscapes, but today Rasuljon and his



fellow artisans pay attention to new design trends as well. Rasuljon says, “It gives me great pride to be a part of an inherited tradition. I feel a big responsibility to preserve, develop and pass this folk art onto the future generation.”

For Rasuljon, **#artsaves** the tradition of his ancestors, and symbolizes an Independent Uzbekistan.