

ground control

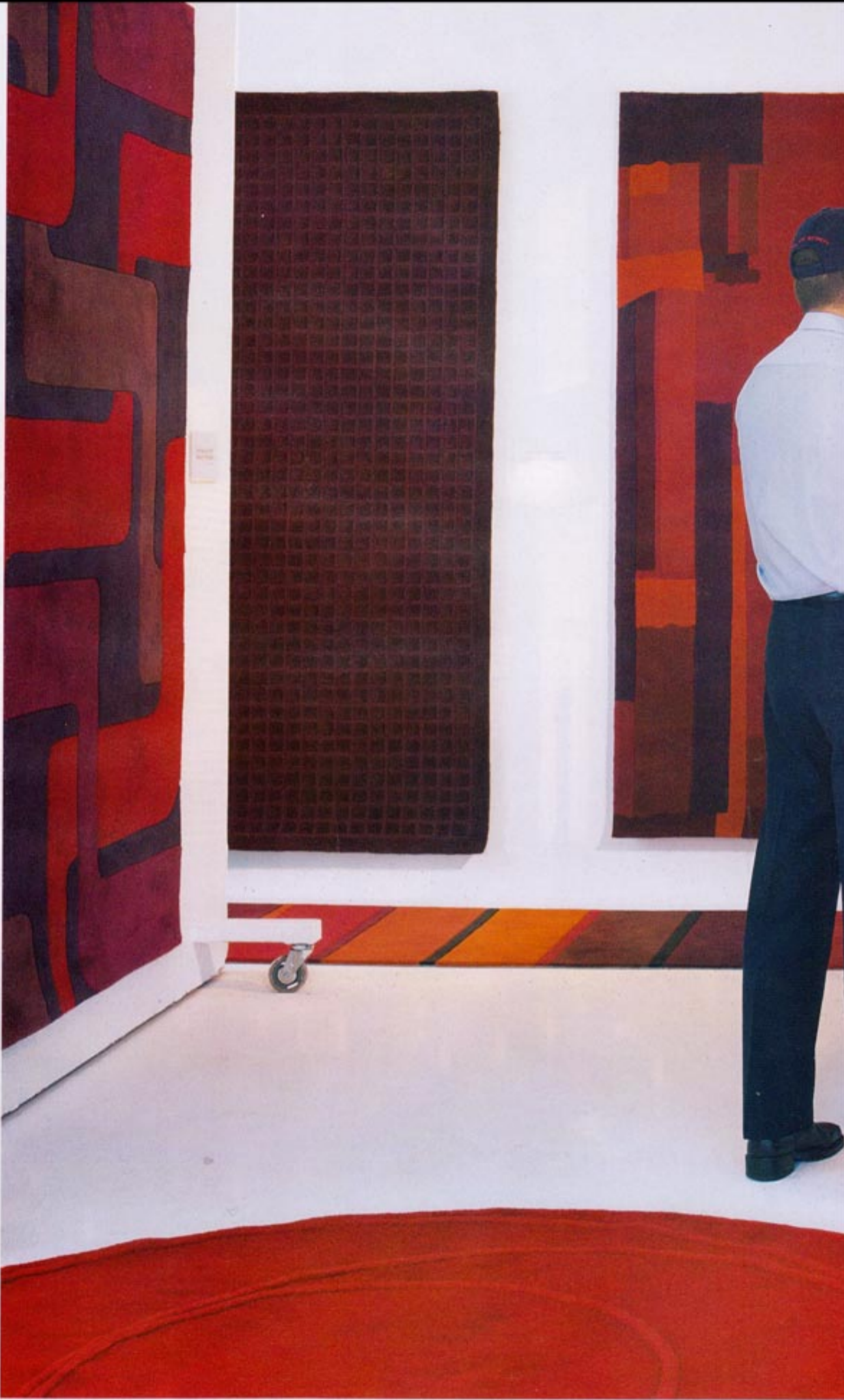
sink your toes into the latest rugs, so soft and vibrant they'll sweep you off your feet

PRODUCED & STYLED BY MIA ASKER
PHOTOGRAPHY JASON LOUCAS
WORDS TANYA SIMPSON

TREAD CAREFULLY

There's no better way to inject colour, toe-friendly texture and pattern than with a good rug. Just stick to these tips:

- **Stick to it** The right underlay or 'pad' depends on the surface your rug will be laid on, and will stop your rug sliding and wrinkling. Ask your salesperson.
- **Dye another day** Cheaper rugs can stain the floor underneath because the dyes haven't been locked in properly. Attach a rug backing, such as underlay. Available at carpet shops for around \$25/square metre.
- **Fits like a glove** Many shops will make a rug to the design and size you want. You'll pay between \$1300 and \$6000.
- **Home free** Many rug dealers will let customers take a rug home to try it out. This is a great way to check for size and see how the colours work in your house.
- **Hang about** Hung on the wall, rugs make fabulous, tactile artwork. To make sure the weight of the rug is evenly distributed, use 'smooth edge', a thin strip of wood with gripping tacks.
- **Step on it** Make sure rugs in kitchen areas are washable and firmly secured. >



LEFT TO RIGHT Optic rug in berry, 2.3x1.6m around \$499, Grid rug in ruby, 1.6x2.3m around \$399, both Freedom. Tina B2 rug in red, 1.6x2.3m \$690, Jewel Block C rug in red, 1.6x2.3m \$1965, both RugsCarpets by Design. On floor: Dianne D2 rug in red, 75cmx3.4m \$490, RugsCarpets by Design. IKEA/PS round rug in red, 2m diameter \$395, IKEA. Air chair, \$99, ECC Lighting & Living. For stockists see page 150