Beyond the warp with
BRIANA BLaSKO AND NEST

Meet Briana Blasko, the photographer behind the book Dance Of The Woven, which explores the captivating connections between dancers and handloom textiles. This time Nest, a nonprofit that does exemplary work in the social and economic advancement of global artisans, has collaborated with her to produce a stunning collection of photographs that go “beyond the warp,” showcasing the mastery behind India’s luxurious textile traditions.

To bring the story to life, Blasko spent days amidst rainstorms in Andhra Pradesh during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival, photographing the ikat weavers of Erema in Koyyalagudem and Puttapaka, and the master craftsmen and women at Bina and Kesav Rao’s natural dye farm, Creative Bee. At Creative Bee, Blasko had the rare opportunity to photograph the marigold dyeing process—the symbolic yellow being of great significance in ceremonies and rituals from the time of the Indus Valley Civilization. “Returning to AP to photograph weavers and the making of the colour yellow was an absolute joy. I continue to be inspired by the work of Nest, as well as the artisans. I am in awe of how graciously the weavers and craftpeople open up their homes and workspaces to share their mastery with all of us,” says Blasko.

Nest is at the forefront of working across the world with businesses like Erema and Creative Bee, providing them with increased transparency and business development services. To counter the demise of traditional practices in an increasingly mechanised world, Nest continually celebrates the global expanse of master craftsmen beyond the renowned ateliers and maisons of Europe. “In the same way the fashion community has reverence for the craft traditions of Europe, there should be appreciation for the luxury artisans of India,” says Rebecca van Bergen, founder of Nest. Brianaablasko.com; Buildanest.org