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WEBS WE WEAVE

A Massachusetts company has developed a process to turn individual DNA patterns into tapestries. **Denna Jones** considers the implications

Each of Earth's 8.1 billion humans possesses a unique genetic signature; LifeWeave celebrates this distinctiveness. By translating the code of life into a bespoke visual object, the company offers consumers the ability to have their own biological signatures

woven into one-of-a-kind Jacquard tapestries.

LifeWeave was launched in October 2025 by Italian artist Emilio Vavarella, to intersect genomics with woven textiles. He developed the process while artist-in-residence at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard University. It begins with a simple saliva kit, but the journey from biological

sample to bespoke textile is a high-tech odyssey. When a commission is agreed, a collection kit is sent to the client, to be returned to the Broad Clinical Labs. Once sequenced, personal DNA data is encrypted and translated via proprietary software into a visual language. The process from saliva to shuttle begins.

The resulting digital DNA file arrives at LifeWeave's Jacquard looms in England or Europe. Choosing Jacquard looms over other weaving techniques is a fitting and strategic choice. This early 19th-century invention was a programmable analogue machine where interchangeable punched cards—the predecessor of

IBM's punch-card computer technology—determine the complex weaving patterns.

LifeWeave's process integrates a 32-character hash into the weave to create a bridge between the physical analogue world and digital realms. This cryptographic signature ensures that the tapestry remains a verified record of the buyer's identity. Two patterns are offered: *Mathesis* and *Floral*. *Mathesis* interprets DNA as a geometric composition, while *Floral* uses DNA to express 'the generative power of life'.

The *Mathesis* pattern is not dissimilar to weavings by Gunta Stölzl, the only female master at the Bauhaus. She wrote: 'Drawing is not replicating what we see.' Instead, it is a process that allows external stimuli to 'flow through the entire body'. Stölzl's vision of the loom as an extension of the living body finds a digital echo here; LifeWeave's algorithms act as a contemporary 'master', distilling the chaotic beauty of a human genome into the disciplined geometry of the loom.

This remarkable development is entirely in line with the contemporary desire to view our living spaces as extensions of our very being. However—in an era of escalating data harvesting—not everyone will want to tread such a thin a line between aesthetics and forensics, even if it (literally) makes us appear beautiful. **lifeweave.app**

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01-03 The *Mathesis* pattern textile by LifeWeave

04 The *Floral* pattern by LifeWeave

04



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THE TAPESTRY REMAINS A VERIFIED RECORD OF THE BUYER'S IDENTITY