

Artisjok 4 (Artichoke 4)

Artisjok 4, shown in Figure 119, is one of Colenbrander's earlier documented designs. Reviews of his carpet designs as early as 1896 mention his *Artisjok* designs, but it is not clear which versions of the designs are being discussed. The first unambiguous published reference is contained in Sluyterman's 1905 article: "*Artichoke 4*, in which we certainly recognize the contours of the first design but in another combination of colors: that is to say, in palette 4, with no less than four colors: white or gray, blue, red, and light blue are to be seen."¹

As Sluyterman wrote, the outline of *Artisjok 4*'s central field, which is filled with a solid gray, replicates the border enclosing the multicolor *Artisjok*'s central field that is filled with motifs rendered in red and yellow. Some of the motifs used in the multicolor *Artisjok* are also reused here in modified form. The flower-like motifs and series of meandering lines in the multicolor *Artisjok* are used exactly the same way in *Artisjok 4*, but the additional outer borders found in the multicolor design have been deleted in *Artisjok 4*. Instead, the flower-like motifs now form the outer border.

Sluyterman's explanation of "palette 4" is incorrect. He implies that this version of the *Artisjok* design is named *Artisjok 4* because it uses palette 4, containing no less than four colors. The black-and-white reproductions of *Artisjok 4* published in Colenbrander's lifetime do not make it possible to determine how many colors were used in the design. However, an *Artisjok 4* carpet shows that more than four colors were used. A drawing of the *Artisjok 4* design in the KVT archives of the TextielMuseum in Tilburg includes samples of the wool colors used in the design; ten such samples are present. (See Figure 121. The design is inventory number 11021 and is dated to 1894-1910.) Palette 4, therefore, certainly contained more than four colors. The numbers used in some of Colenbrander's carpet designs cannot refer to the number of colors contained in a palette; if they did, *Tulp 1* and *Artisjok 1* would be singularly uninteresting designs. It should also be noted that the published version of the original *Artisjok 4* design does not include all of the motifs surrounding the central field; some of the design's length has been omitted. This becomes obvious when comparing the design and the carpet. (See Figures 119 and 120.)

The only known *Artisjok 4* carpet, shown in Figure 123, was offered for sale as lot 225 in Christie's Amsterdam sale 2588 on 24 June 2003. The catalog describes it as "a large machine-woven woolen carpet, Dutch, 1920s," with dimensions of 595 by 505 cm. The lot had a estimate at 900-1,200 €. According to the sales results published immediately after the auction, the carpet sold (with buyer's premium) for 2,151 €. However, according to the sales results currently available on Christie's website, the lot was not sold. (There are similar inconsistencies for other lots in this sale as well.)

The contemporaneous photograph of an *Artisjok 4* carpet shown in Figure 122 was published in 1904.² Figures 124-127 show various portions of the carpet.

1. Theodorus Karel Lodewijk Sluyterman, "Over tapytkunst en een nederlandsche tapijtfabriek," *Elsevier's Geïllustreerd Mandchrift* 15, pt. 29 (Jan-June 1905): 303.

The original text:

"*Artisjok 4*, waarin wij wèl de contouren van het eerste ontwerp terugvinden maar in een andere combinatie van kleuren: palet 4 dus, dat niet minder dan vier kleuren : wit of grijs, blauw, rood en licht-blauw te zien geeft."

2. *De Bouwwereld* 3, no. 43 (1904): n. p.

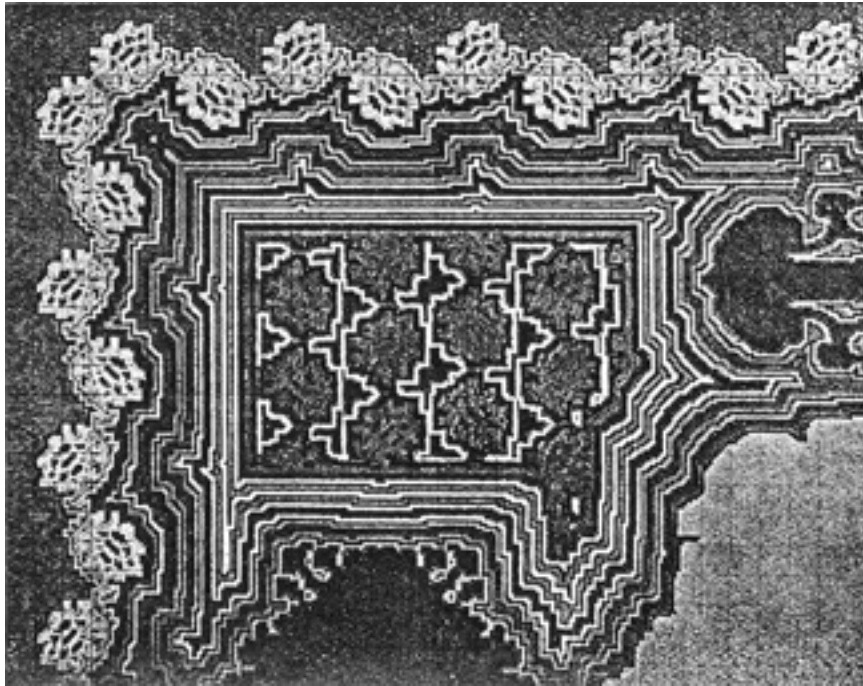


Figure 119. *Artisjok 4* carpet design.



Figure 120. Detail of *Artisjok 4* carpet, private collection.