

Mayflower  
project

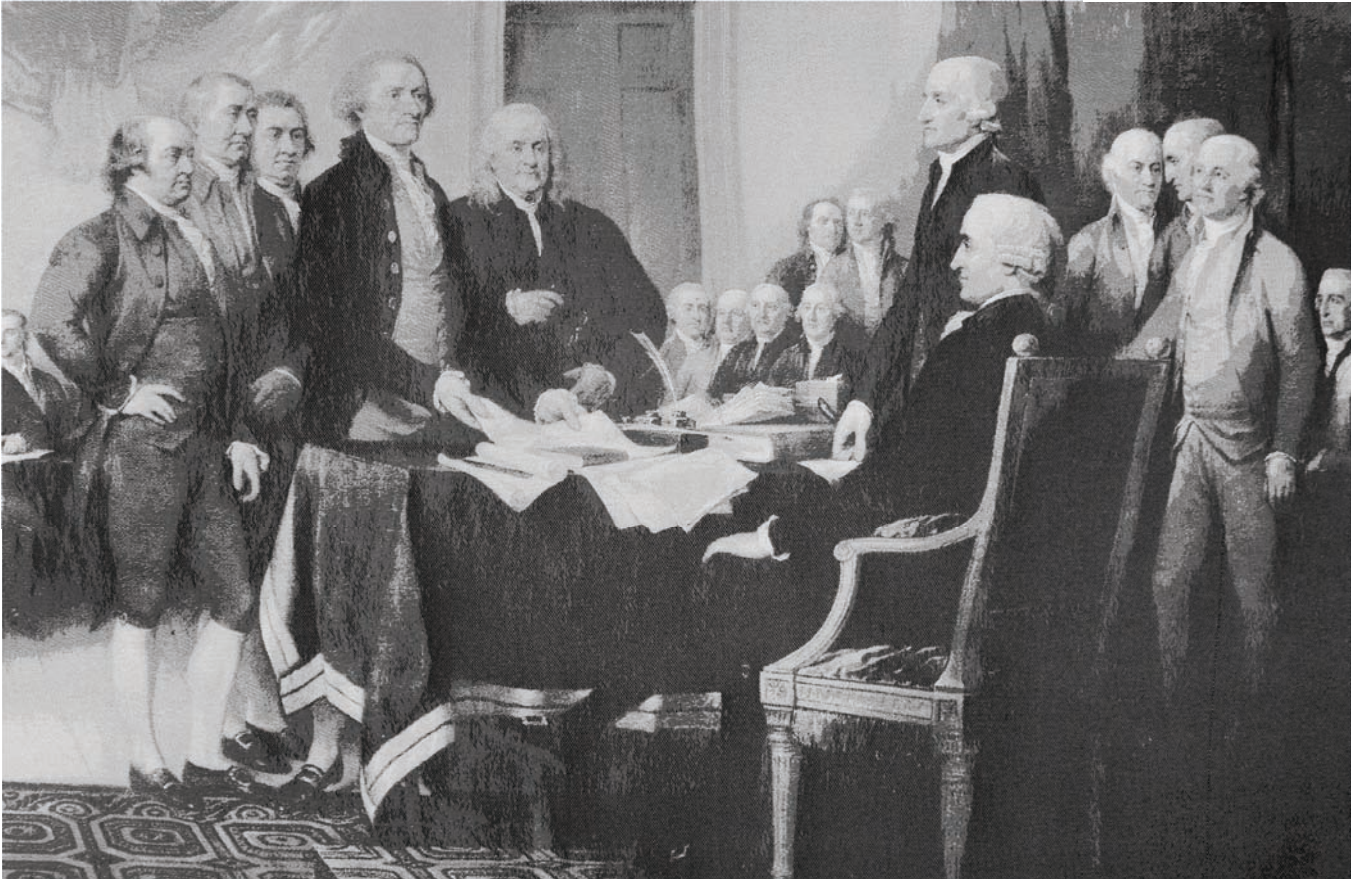
# WOVEN MOMENTS



Even today every American is particularly proud that the forefathers have already recorded the "pursuit of happiness" as a fundamental right in their founding declaration. That is why this special moment also deserves a special depiction. The moment must be immortalized in the most beautiful form of picture manufacturing. Incomparable works of art are thus created to emphasize what makes America the leading nation of the 21st century: freedom!

The team of LIVING PICTURE has revived two motifs from the 18th century of the MAYFLOWER project in elaborate detail and with the highest quality standards.

*The woven picture is a reproduction of John Trumbull's painting of the Continental Congress of 1776, painted around 1816. It can be viewed at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Outer dimensions: 35 x 27 inch*

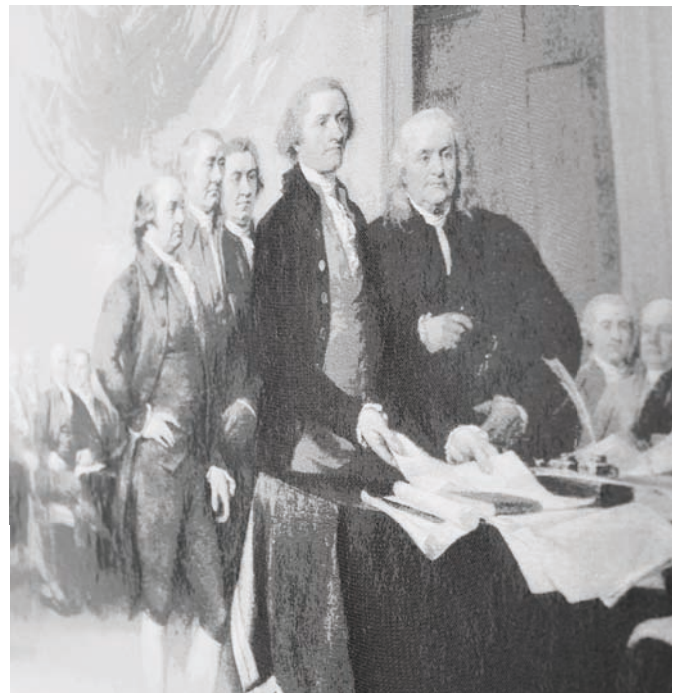


## Magic of silk

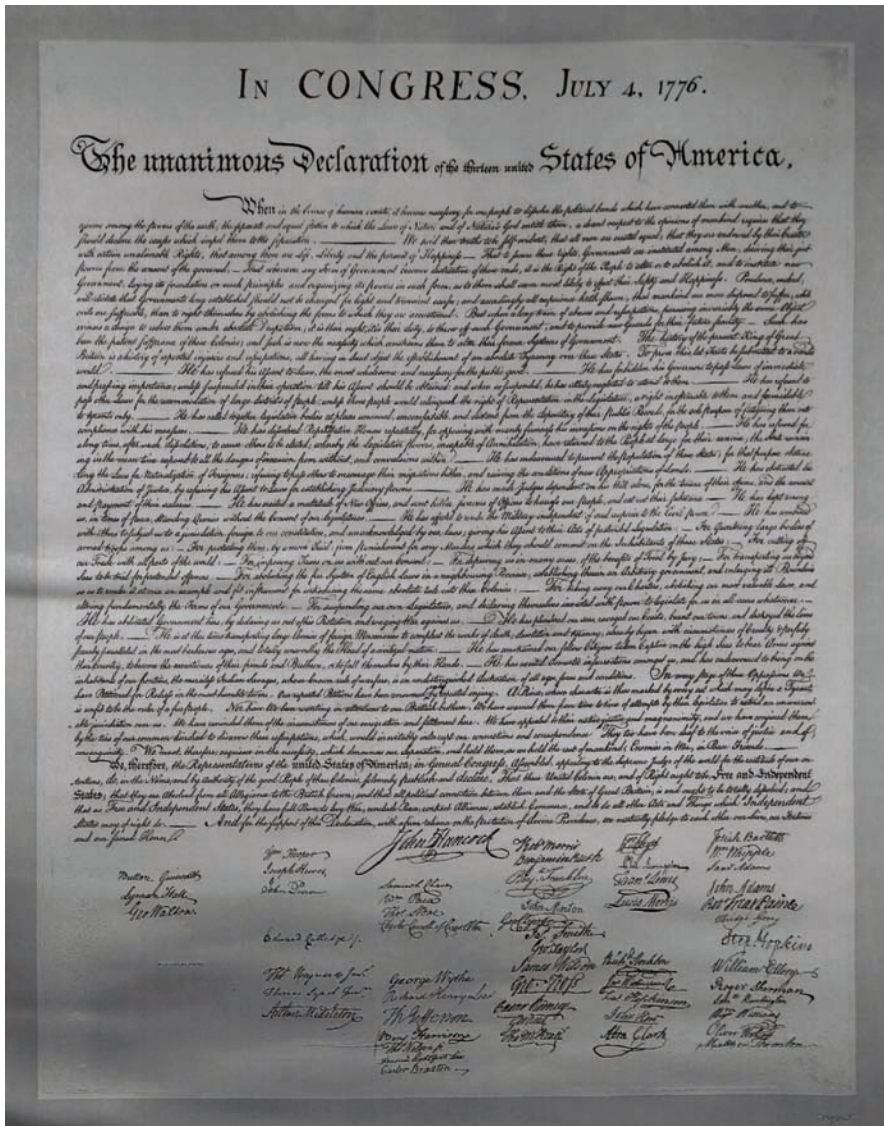
— The change of light source and the viewer's position make silk woven pictures seem "alive". Silk reflects colors differently, depending on the light and viewing location. Due to the weaving structure the picture obtains a depth, which no 3D structure can exhibit. The viewer is spellbound.

Modern artists utilize silk woven pictures in a variety of installations due to their "living picture" qualities.

Due to its 2-dimensionality, a print cannot exhibit similar liveliness like a woven picture.







**Motion cannot only be painted or printed  moments can be woven!**

The woven picture the United States of America Declaration of Independence on 4 July 1776. A reproduction of a reprint from 1823 is depicted here. Outer dimensions: 27 x 35 inch



Picture silk weaving was a large manufacturing field of the Saxon and Central German textile industry since the 17th century. Woven pictures with the most varying romantic, modern and classicist motifs made of silk and other fibres were exported worldwide. At this time, printed pictures could not display the same clarity as woven pictures. Woven motion pictures exhibited detailed, sharp characteristics. High-quality silk with its special sheen in combination with elaborate textile engineering skills still has a special fascination today.

For years now the long forgotten art has been revived in the middle of Germany.

## History of silk weaving

Silk weaving is an artistic form of weaving to produce silk textiles with pictures and graphics. This process was the most important means of reproducing pictures before photography and printing.

Since the weaving of silk requires a high degree of expertise, perfection and flair due to the particularly thin material, there were always factories, which specialized in silk weaving.

In addition to England, Saxony in the German Empire was known as the center of the textile industry and particularly for silk weaving in the era of industrialization.

During the heyday of picture weaving in the middle of the 18th century, silk weaving employed up to 10,000 people in Saxony. Before the emergence of textile printing, weaving pictures was the highest artistic form of reproducing unique motifs.



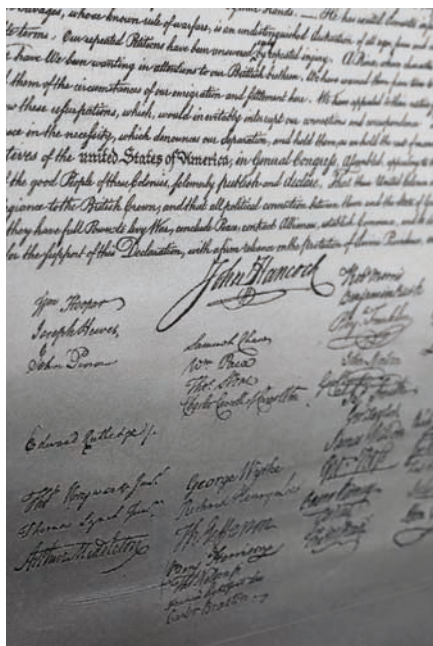
## Development of a picture woven in silk

Everyday scenes as well as historic events were considered as motifs for pictures woven in silk. These multifaceted woven pictures lined the walls of the salons of the affluent and educated circles during the industrialization and founding years in Europe. At that time silk woven pictures and silk wall textiles were the highest form of interior decorations for the affluent.

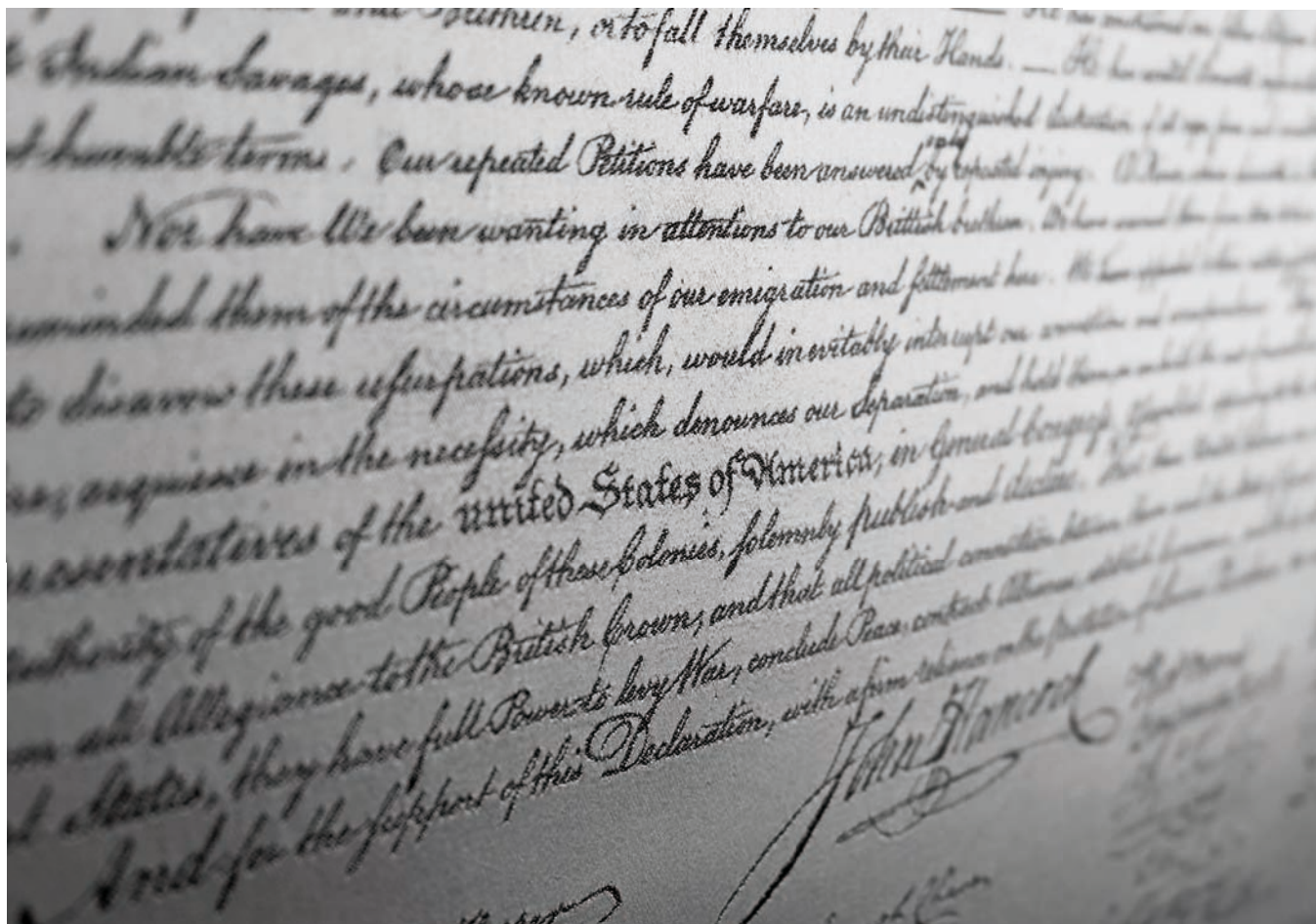
Before a silk picture can be produced, it is converted into a weaving template in which the individual pixels are marked. Each pixel warp and weft threads meet. Normal motifs can easily consist of more than 2 million pixels. This requires about 1,000 hours of preparation of for a work of art. A picture that is converted into such pixels is referred to as a weaving pattern. This pattern is then converted into a punch-card, which controls the Jacquard machine in a weaving process.

In contrast to printed fabric, the Jacquard silk pictures are made by weaving the white warp threads (vertical) and black or white weft threads (horizontal). This leads to the fact that the exact negative of the original is visible on the backside of every picture. The 508 threads/inch allow a depth of field which is comparable to a print.

Light is reflected differently due to the undulation of the warp and weft threads. A silk woven picture is a 3-dimensional artefact, which is of unique high quality due to the structure of the threads and the production.







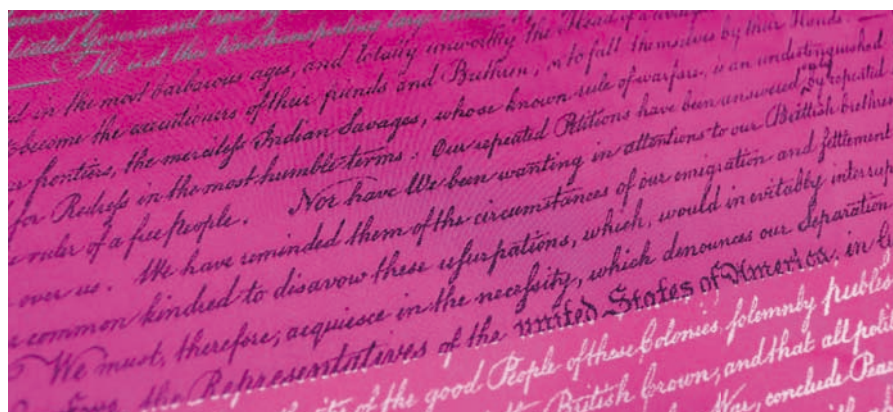
## Fascination of a living silk picture

Silk has always brought about a special magical quality because it shines in many facets due to the reflection of light. Silk is a very high quality material and very costly in terms of production. This all contributes towards the special fascination of silk.

It is particularly exceptional to utilize silk fabrics not for clothing, furniture or wall coverings, but to feature a special motif of history through the brilliant wealth of facets in the 3-dimensionality of the weaving design and the high-quality workmanship. The American motifs of the MAYFLOWER project were the template for one of the arguably most important events of modern times.

## Decline and renewal of silk picture weaving

Since new developments in printing arose at the end of the 19th century, picture weaving was no longer in strong demand. Larger production volumes could be attained in a timely and cost-efficient manner through printing. The art of designing a picture as sharp as a good digital installation faded in the economic boom of industrialization. The art of the weaver for absolute perfection fell into oblivion.



## Woven motion – project team

— Nadja and Anton Schumann make the old tradition of woven pictures come alive again with a weaving mill in Saxony (Germany) that is 150 years old. Silk woven pictures with historic motifs and modern works of art are reproduced in close cooperation with the organization known as Neue Pillnitzer Werkstätten (NPW).

Their goal is not only to preserve the art, but to fashionably revive the art of picture weaving with modern artists and interior designers.

**“What is more  
valuable than a unique  
motif woven on silk  
which comes alive in  
the shimmer of light?”**

