BREAKTHROUGH IN WOOL INSECT-RESIST TREATMENT

Mystox MP, a new insect-resist agent to protect carpets, developed by Catomance Technologies, UK, in conjunction with Wools of New Zealand, was featured at Domotex.

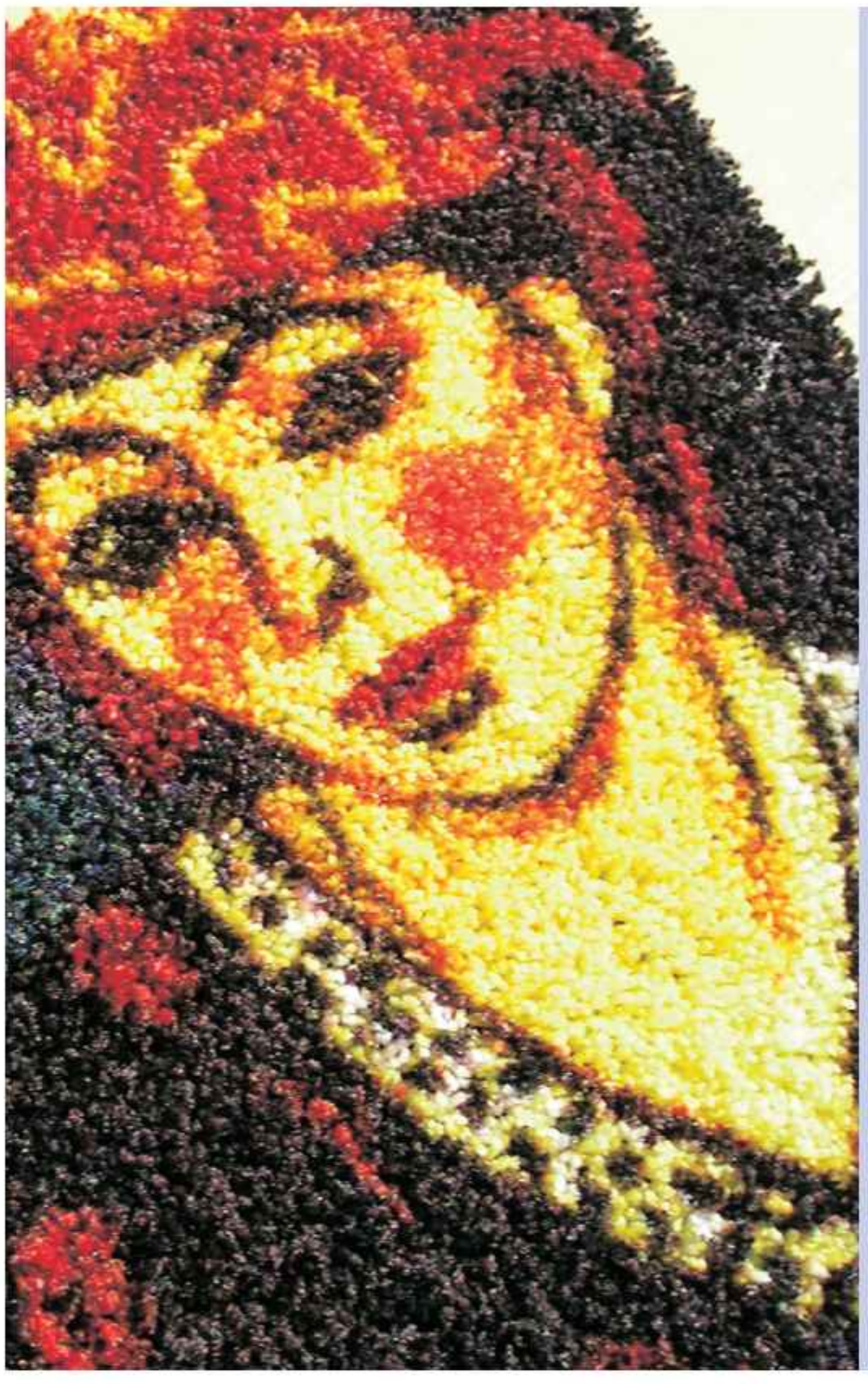
Mystox MP is described as an environmentally-friendly breakthrough in insect resist treatment of wool and wool-blend floorcoverings.

With increasing environmental pressures and stringent legislation, the carpet industry has long voiced concerns about the continued use and effectiveness of permethrin-based treatments. "Resistance to these insecticides has built up, resulting in the need for higher dosage rates to maintain effectiveness," says Catomance.

Wools of New Zealand told the Wool Record that achieving effective insect-resistance of wool carpets without compromising the environment had been an ongoing priority, and through collaboration with Catomance Technologies Ltd, "a major advance in the treatment of wool has now been achieved".

Mystox MP is being marketed as a new generation of insecticide that is highly effective against moths and beetles and has a low environmental impact on waterways. Environmental risk assessments based on toxicity to aquatic organisms are reported to show that Mystox MP is up to 30 times less toxic than currently used permethrin-based insect resist agents.

The companies say that Mystox MP has a high affinity for wool, with excellent fastness properties. The product can be applied by all the commonly used methods, including dyebath, continuous and foam application.



ADVANCE IN WOOL CARPET PRINTING

THE outlook for quality printed wool floorcoverings is said to have improved significantly since Printos, a Videojet technology company and Wools of New Zealand technology partner, developed a viable digital solution, overcoming what has been a major technical challenge for wool.

The special Printos miniature valve heads, with very high flow nozzles, have been designed specifically for high-pile printing and micro dispensing, allowing for full process control and monitoring and full-colour image preparation.

Wools of New Zealand says that high-speed operation, precision drop placement and repeatable fluid dispensing are just some of the advantages of this technology, making it an attractive commercial proposition for the international carpet market.

"A new level of creativity and opportunity is now available to designers and manufacturers thanks to full edge-to-edge printing, spot or process colour pattern printing and single spot colour dyeing made all the more attractive by the low-cost digital inks," the Wool Record was told by Wools of New Zealand, which exhibited the technology at Domotex.

"Dye penetration of deep pile carpets and even the densest sheepskins are no longer a problem with Printos digital technology," said the company.

LEFT: Deep-pile print of Matisse painting using Printos videojet technology.