



Piece of the Month 2019

Month	Description	Image
January	<p>Cofradía over-huipil Chajul, Quiché Mayan Language: ixil Year of Manufacture: 1960</p> <p>Ixchel Museum collection: MI-05892</p> <p>Two panels woven on a backstrap loom with mercerized cotton in the warp and in the weft, hand-seamed with blue cotton that was possibly dyed with indigo, a natural dye. The zoomorphic designs were brocaded with silk on both panels. The round neck was hand-embroidered in silk.</p>	

Month	Description	Image
September	<p>Sashes</p> <p>Collection of sashes woven on the backstrap loom, some by men to hold up their trousers, and others by women to hold up their skirt, or <i>corte</i>. Each one is different in size, motifs, and color. All are circa 1940-1970.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Man's sash, Almolonga, Quetzaltenango (MI-00196) Mayan language: k'iche' 2. Woman's sash, San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Guatemala (MI-00400) Mayan language: kaqchikel 3. Woman's sash, San Pedro Sacatepéquez, San Marcos (MI-04913) Mayan language: mam 4. Woman's sash, San José Nacahuil, Guatemala (MI-05642) Mayan language: kaqchikel 5. Man's sash, Nahualá, Sololá (P-318) Mayan language: k'iche' 	 <p>The image displays five vertical strips of traditional Mayan sashes. From left to right: 1. A dark green sash with a wide, colorful zigzag border at the bottom. 2. A narrow, vibrant sash with a complex geometric pattern in red, yellow, and blue. 3. A narrow sash with a repeating geometric motif in purple, red, and white. 4. A narrow sash with a colorful diamond pattern. 5. A wide, dark blue sash with thin, vertical red stripes.</p>

Month	Description	Image
October	<p>Everyday blouse (<i>huipil</i>) Nahualá, Sololá Mayan language: k'iche' Year of creation: c1975 Ixchel Museum Collection: MI-05384 Representative symbol: Star</p> <p>The symbol of the star can be found in a variety of places, among them the pokomam community of Palín, Escuintla -- the poqomchi' community of Tactic, Alta Verapaz and the town of Nahualá, Sololá, where k'iche is spoken. There the symbol is used in the everyday huipil.</p> <p>It is interesting to note that the star (or <i>ch'umil</i> in k'iche'), was part of the cosmological repertory dating back to the Olmecs – forming part of the so-named heavenly bands. These celestial bands were also referred to in the codices as well as the <i>Popol Vuh</i>. Barbara Knoke de Arathoon, Sown Symbols, 2007. Guatemala: Ixchel Museum of Indigenous Dress.</p>	

Month	Description	Image
December	<p>Cofradía over-huipil San Martín Jilotepeque, Chimaltenango Mayan language: kaqchikel Year created: 1930 Ixchel Museum collection: MI-04092</p> <p>This is an overblouse to the usual <i>huipil</i>. Two panels, woven on a backstrap loom with natural white cotton for the warp and weft of the base, seamed by hand with the same type of cotton. The lower border shows red lines of the same thread across the weft. The vertical neck has no decoration, nor do the armholes.</p> <p>The small geometric designs are brocaded with supplementary wefts of the same material in blue, purple, red, and green, possibly all tinted with natural dyes: the first with indigo, and the second with <i>purpura pansa murex</i> (a sea mollusk).</p> <p>For more on dyestuffs, see our June 2020 bulletin article by Raymond E. Senuk.</p>	