

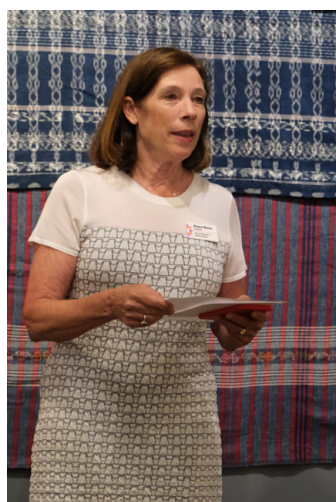


FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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FOIM FIND THEIR WAY TO SAN JOSE



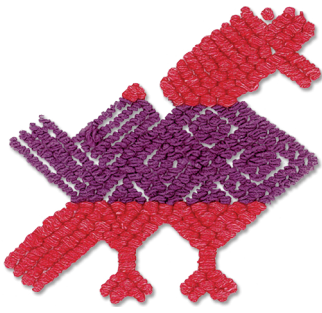
Friends of the Ixchel Museum (FOIM) has long sought to mount a museum-quality exhibit featuring our outstanding US textile collection. This summer, we achieved our goal. Just as important, all the building blocks are in place for a repeat in additional locales.

On July 13th our exhibition *Mayan Traje: A Tradition in Transition* opened at the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles (SJMQT) in California. The reception was well-attended, including by the new Consul-General for Guatemala in San Francisco, Sylvia Wohlers de Meie. It is estimated that about 2,000 visitors, including local school groups, saw it by the time it closed in mid-October.

The exhibit was curated by Raymond Senuk and Abby Sue Fisher and installed with the help of SJMQT staff and local volunteers. It consisted of about 85 pieces which graced gallery walls and mannequins. The selection was predominantly beautiful and rare pieces dating from the 1920s to the 50s, with several paired comparisons from the same village to show how little substantive change had taken place*. Then we also featured some contemporary machine-made pieces to provide dramatic contrast, since major changes have recently swept into fashion. There was a lot to see and admire. Mannequins presented full *trajes* (outfits) from a range of villages and styles. Detailed labels were available in English and Spanish throughout. Entire walls showcased traditional *jaspe* (ikat) skirts and modern *delantales* (aprons). Large photos punctuated the weavings for context and illustration, including a huge photo-mosaic created for us

Top left: Modern *Trajes*, non-village specific, 2018
Top Right: Chichicastenango *Trajes*, 1960s and 2018
Lower left: Nancy Bavor, Director of the SJMQT

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IN THE MUSEUM



Santo Domingo Xenacoj
Field Trip, 2019



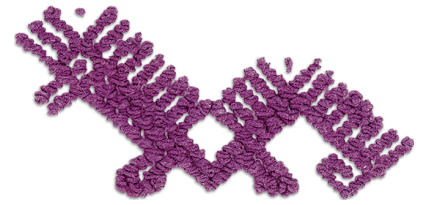
✚ The second half of the year has been busy with well-attended field trips to three different communities. Interest in the *Cofradías* has spread after the exhibit “refresh” and people love seeing them first hand and within the context of their community. The first was a visit to Patzún for their famous Corpus Christi celebration, a trip taken by Guatemalans and expats which included lunch nearby. The second trip was to San Pedro Sacatepéquez—not too far from the city—and the third was a visit to the *cofradía* in Santo Domingo Xenacoj. This trip was especially interesting to those who had seen the Museum’s show because the giant photo on the main exhibit wall is of the church altar in Santo Domingo. It depicts Santo Domingo, of course, the Virgen de Guadalupe and then a Mayan offering on the floor, a perfect example of religious syncretism.

✚ Academic activity and interest are also big in the Museum. A series of conferences has been held in-house, led not only by Violeta, our curator, but by visiting academics and specialists in different fields. For example, Martín Fernández (long time contributor to the Museum and to Juannio) spoke on “Curaduría de Arte”, attracting many collectors and members of the artistic community.

✚ Violeta was invited to the Museo Textil in Oaxaca and gave an outstanding conference called *Fajas: colores y diseños, señas de identidad*. She was thrilled to participate and absorb ideas from a fellow textile museum. We are exploring possibilities for future collaborations between the two institutions.

✚ Our show galleries have witnessed all sorts of creative expressions. The largest by far has been *Bichos* for the Down Syndrome foundation. Famous artists made beetles, butterflies, dragonflies and bees with their signature style. They even painted women as these critters, as sort of human sculptures. I have never seen such a large attendance at a Museum event — hundreds of attendees! There have also been photography events, since the Club Fotográfico once again holds their meetings and events at the Ixchel.

✚ Coming up is our big annual party in October, this year called *Inspiración Textil*. We have changed the format, and it will no longer be a formal gala. Instead, we will have dance music, food stations, and scattered lounges and chairs where guests can sit and mingle but not be confined to one table. The always successful silent auction remains! We are hoping to attract not only more people, but all age groups as well, for some fun time together



FOIM FIND THEIR WAY TO SAN JOSE

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

by the Museo Ixchel team. Soft marimba music played in the galleries. People could sit and watch an *Endangered Threads* video showing weaving styles while flanked by loom examples provided by our Weaving for the Future co-op. Visitors exited to find our gorgeous publication for sale at the bookshop.

A big plus for viewers of this exhibit was their ability to get up close and personal with the weavings, which were not behind stanchions or glass. (Go to kqed.org and search “Ixchel” for a great review.) At the July opening reception, Yolanda Alcorta worked to supplement the experience with a San Juan Atitán weaver demonstration, a marimba group from Todos Santos,

and Guatemalan finger food. In October, the SJMQT put on a free Community Day, further adding weaving workshops and a folkloric dance group.

The partnership between FOIM and the SJMQT was fun, successful, and a learning experience for all. And it produced a noteworthy exhibit.

**see “Tradition and Change in San Pedro Sacatepéquez” in the November 2018 bulletin (available on our website) for a detailed article on the subject.*



Left: Santiago Atitlán Daily Huipil, 1970s

Right: Raymond’s Opening Gallery Talk, July 2019



Photos by Pedro Pablo Reyes and Shannon Knepper

ANNOUNCING THE FIRST PUBLICATION FROM THE FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

MAYAN TRAJE: A TRADITION IN TRANSITION



The perfect holiday gift! Our first FOIM publication is spectacular.

Full of rich information and glorious illustrations, this booklet was created to accompany the San Jose exhibit, but is a standalone softcover publication. Its 36 pages show textiles from our collection in large, color-balanced photographs, accompanied by text and descriptions by Raymond E. Senuk. The design is by Joe Miller and creates drama and beauty from the flat pieces. English only.

Price: \$18.00 which includes shipping and handling
(Inquire about discount for multiple copies)

To order, please send your request to: foiminfo@gmail.com

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HONORING OUR MOTHERS

The publication *Mayan Traje: A Tradition in Transition* was sponsored in part by our Board member Elisa María Dyer de Fitzpatrick. Here's what made her want to honor her mother.

Lucrecia Herrera Ibarguen (1923 -2016) was born in Guatemala City. Her favorite place was Lake Atitlán, especially the village called Panajachel, where she vacationed with her family. Now, five generations later, we do the same. The house is still filled with a wonderful assortment of Mayan textiles, as well as the woolen ponchos from Momostenango. There are numerous pillows and chair cushions in bright native colors, runners and tablecloths from



nearby Sololá and Santa Catarina Palopó, as well as the naif paintings hanging in many rooms – all reflecting the flavor and beauty of Guatemala, its richness and diversity of weaving. I want to remember my sweet mother and all the other moms who keep our traditions and values alive and pass their love of family and country on to the next generations.



Located on 6a Calle final, zona 10, on the grounds of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala City.

Open 9 am to 5 pm M-F | 9 am to 1 pm Saturday.
Admission is Q35 for adults, Q15 for students and Q8 for schoolchildren.

For further information on library access and holiday closings and more, please visit museoixchel.org
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FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

PO Box 30, Princeton, NJ 08542 USA

Members receive free entrance to FOIM exhibits in the U.S.

Also entrance to the Museo Ixchel in Guatemala,
with discounts on select purchases in its shop.

Custodia	\$5,000	Faja	\$100
Huipil Ceremonial	\$1,000	Cinta Seda	\$50
Huipil	\$500	Cinta	\$25
Corte	\$250		

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