



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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forms to the public. The museum has just published *Maya Huipiles of Guatemala* as

a folding map measuring eight inches by eight and a half inches. It is also available flat or rolled, measuring 34 inches by 23 inches. Each form includes both sides of the map and is printed



on high-quality paper stock. For information on obtaining these, please see the back page of this bulletin.

MAYA HUIPILES OF GUATEMALA

Barbara Knoke de Arathoon explained the details of *Maya Huipiles of Guatemala* to guests at a party inaugurating the map.

"For the first time, one can see the image of a huipil, know whether it was made on a backstrap or treadle/foot loom, identify the decorative techniques, ... know the language spoken in each community and where it is located in Guatemala."

The most stunning new exhibit at the Museo Ixchel is *Maya Huipiles of Guatemala*. It is a twelve-foot by eight-foot rendering of a linguistic map superimposed on a traditional departmental map of Guatemala, to show the location of 117 communities where the huipil – the blouse worn by Maya women – is worn. Bordering the map are photographs of 117 huipiles from these communities, organized by language groups. The text is in both Spanish and English.

The reverse side has sections explaining the history and making of huipiles, how the traditions have changed over time, the differences in techniques such as brocade and embroidery, and other interesting information about this classic form of Maya dress.

For the first time, one can see the image of a huipil, know whether it was made on a backstrap or treadle/foot loom, identify the decorative techniques (brocade, embroidery or appliqué), know the language spoken in each community and where it is located in Guatemala.

In addition to being a striking exhibit at the museum, the map will be available in two

Maya Huipiles of Guatemala was designed to be a valuable educational tool. It will be useful to a first-time visitor trying to make sense of the visual splendor of women dressed in traditional dress. Seasoned students of indigenous Maya dress will find it a useful aid for identification and research. One can imagine this colorful map hanging in every classroom in Guatemala, ensuring that children will learn about and appreciate the richness of their country's cultural heritage.

The project was envisioned by one of the co-founders of the Museo Ixchel, Lucie G. (Baysis) Hempstead, and is dedicated to her memory. Her family, the talented staff of the museum and the local design firm of Tipos Diseño all helped make sense of a large amount of disparate information. Continuing financial support for the project came from the Friends of the Ixchel Museum. The US embassy in Guatemala has shown its early support with an order for 50 copies, to be used in educational programs.

The map is just one of the highlights of the totally-renovated permanent exhibition area, which opened to the public in early September. In addition to improved lighting and colorful new paint, eighty per cent of the exhibits have been changed. The traffic

Continued inside



THE MUSEUM



The Museo Ixchel is located on 6a Calle final, zona 10, on the grounds of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala City. The museum is open from 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, and from 9am to 1pm on 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 or telephone 502 2331 3622

✦ The museum is alive with change these days, between the redesigned exhibit spaces, conservation activities, and the introduction of the huipiles map after years of work.

✦ Early this year, the Carene Foundation, based in Switzerland, gave the Ixchel Museum a generous grant to conserve, digitize and store 521 Maya

su't. The Carene Foundation was so pleased with the museum staff's "enthusiasm, motivation, dedication and gratitude" in their work that they have asked the museum to submit a second grant application for next year to finish conserving the su't collection. The most beautiful su't are richly ornamented, square or rectangular, multipurpose cloths worn and used in religious ceremonies. Simpler su't are used in daily life to carry babies or bundles. Once photographed and properly stored they need not be moved unnecessarily and can be studied by researchers all over the world.

The children's area is now bright and cheerful, with new paint and a painted table and stools providing space for the children to learn embroidery.

✦ In September, the museum opened an exhibition of the naïf paintings of Andrés Curruchich, who depicted his home town of Comolapa, now a mecca for painters. Curruchich's colorful works will be featured in the Museo Ixchel's 2012 calendar.

✦ Violeta Gutiérrez, the museum's registrar of textiles, has been awarded a scholarship to spend two months working in Madrid at the Museo de las Americas. She will be occupied with identifying the Spanish museum's collection of Guatemalan textiles.

✦ Areas that have been brightened up include the library, which for the first time is arranging the books according to the Dewey decimal system, and the children's area, with the addition of a colorfully-painted table where the children can learn embroidery. They can also learn to weave on both back-strap and treadle looms.

✦ Pro-teje, the museum's outlet for village weaving, is introducing a new book on Maya symbols.

✦ The next research field trip will be to villages in Sololá.

MAYA HUIPILES OF GUATEMALA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

flow through the space was redesigned to give visitors a more logical and coherent path through the galleries. New label copy and signs are in both Spanish and English. Exhibits will change on a regular basis, to protect fragile and light-sensitive materials and to show off new acquisitions to the museum's vast collection of textiles and clothing. The exciting new space was designed by director of exhibitions Pilar Cruz de Morales.

Changes in the exhibits emphasize the historical links between several rooms. Also the final room in the new arrangements focuses on contemporary styles.



Work has already begun on another project designed to make the visitor's experience richer. This will be updating of the museum's brochure, to give visitors a better idea of what they can expect during their visit. It is one more way that the museum is becoming a very customer-friendly place to spend an afternoon.





FRIENDS IN THE USA



Guatemala
People of Tradition
Santiago Albert

Guatemala People of Tradition can be purchased at the Museo Ixchel and at peopleoftradition.com and photoeye.com



Guatemala People of Tradition is an exquisite collection of black and white images by Spanish photographer Santiago Albert, edited and published by Christine Wilson, a dynamic Guatemalan committed to "sharing the beauty of a country where the commonplace turns extraordinary". A book launch October 27th during the Museo Ixchel annual gala was held as a fundraiser for the museum and is accompanied by a photo exhibit that will run until mid-November.

The book contains 100 black and white images of the people of Guatemala, emphasizing their intense and varied traditions of festivals, feasts and rituals. The photographer explains his choice of black and white by quoting photographer Sebastião Salgado, who said,

"Viewing images in black and white is an abstraction of reality but at the same time a form of concentration."

The photos are the result of four years of work in communities all over the country. Albert comments, "There have been years of attending festivals, days of walking and hours of waiting ... to blend in and to be accepted." While the book does not answer anthropologists'

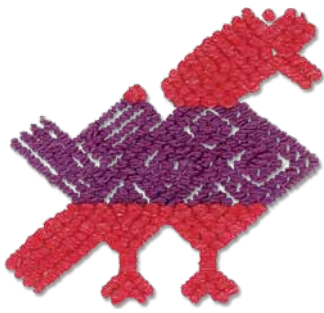
questions about reasons for Guatemalans' intense loyalty to their centuries-old traditions, it does offer vivid proof of its existence.

His glimpses of a little girl leaping across tombstones, a father and son in skeleton costumes, a child looking intensely at her masked father, and a group praying at a flower-strewn lake are among the memorable and unique images.

Guatemala People of Tradition can be purchased at the Museo Ixchel and at peopleoftradition.com and photoeye.com. To purchase prints contact Santiago at santiagoalbert@me.com. The book is published in both Spanish and English.

Photos by Santiago Albert ©2011





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IXCHEL PUBLICATIONS



Two of the Ixchel's most appealing publications will now be available through the American-based Friends of the Ixchel Museum, eliminating the complications of ordering from the museum itself. *Bordados: Stitches That Unite Cultures*, the lavishly-detailed catalogue for last year's embroidery exhibition, is \$30, and the folded version of the new Huipiles map will be \$15, plus shipping and handling. **To order, please send your request to foiminfo@gmail.com**



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FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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Members receive free entrance to exhibitions of FOIM in the U.S. and to the Museo Ixchel in Guatemala City and discounts on purchases in the Museum Shop.

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