






Piece of the Month 2020

Month	Description	Image
January	<p>Cofradía over-huipil Comalapa, Chimaltenango Sanmartineco style Mayan language: kaqchikel Year created: 1960 Ixchel Museum collection: MI-02252</p> <p>Two panels, seamed by hand with mercerized cotton thread, woven on the backstrap loom with the same type of cotton, in both the warp and the weft. The floral and geometric designs are also brocaded with supplementary wefts of the same type of cotton, and rayon. This example known locally as Sanmartineco style because it derived from the influence of the huipil of San Martín Jilotepeque, is different from that known as <i>Comalapa</i> style, which traditionally has identified this town. The <i>Sanmartineco</i> has no creyas nor "separators" or <i>rujiki'al</i>, its base color is usually dark blue or black, and one</p>	

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	<p>of its predominating motifs is flowers (Asturias de Barrios, 1985, p. 31, 44). Its vertical neck has a dark blue velvet application, the same as the edge of the armholes.</p>	
February	<p>Cofradía over-huipil Nebaj, Quiché Mayan language : ixil Year created: 1970 Ixchel Museum collection: MI-05509</p> <p>Three panels, woven on a backstrap loom with mercerized cotton in the warp and in the weft, machine-seamed. On the central panel only, geometric, phytomorphic, and zoomorphic designs were brocaded with mercerized cotton. As is usual in this garment, a row of figures crosses the lower border. In this example, there are birds in pairs with a maize plant in the center. The central panel is much wider than the lateral ones. The round neck has a fabric application, as well as strands of crochet made with mercerized cotton and machine-applied. This "showy" village style is often favored for collections and displays.</p>	

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March	<p>Huipil or blouse San Mateo Ixtatán, Huehuetenango Mayan language : chuj Year created: 1970 Traveling collection: CITI-00078</p> <p>Because the highland weather in San Mateo is very cold and windy, women make their huipiles using two or more layers of cloth, usually a new one placed over an old huipil, in order to protect themselves better. This piece shows geometric designs on almost the entire huipil, and birds and flowers at the bottom. These San Mateo huipiles are usually large and very heavy!</p>	

Month	Description	Image
July	<p>Cofradía huipil Santo Domingo Xenacoj, Sacatepéquez Mayan language: kaqchikel Year created: 1949 Ixchel Museum Collection: Julia de Plocharski P-9 64.2 x 146.5 cm</p> <p>This ceremonial huipil is made with two cloth panels sewn together by hand. It is locally called kaperaj which means that it has 'two pieces'. It stopped being used approximately 35 years ago, which is why it is considered a historical huipil.</p>	

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August	<p> Ceremonial huipil Sacapulas, Quiché Mayan language: sacapulteko Year created: 1930 Ixchel Museum Collection: P-149 72.5 x 96.5 cm </p> <p> Huipil made with three cloth panels sewn together by hand. An elderly women from Sacapulas identified it as a local garment, although the tradition of wearing this style has been lost, as was stated by young women who when interviewed did not recognize it. Thus, this huipil in particular is used as an object of study to help understand the evolution of the community's distinctive styles that are represented in the Ixchel Museum's collection. </p>	

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September	<p>Male Cofradía su´t Rabinal, Baja Verapaz Mayan Language: achi Year created : 2014 Ixchel Museum Collection: (MI-06685) 69 x 83 cm</p> <p>This su´t is made with a single cloth panel. Currently, male cofrades wear it tied around their heads as a garment that is distinctive of their offices.</p>	

Month	Description	Image
October	<p>Cofradía over-huipil Comalapa, Chimaltenango Mayan Language: Kaqchikel Year of manufacture : 1960</p> <p>Two panels, seamed by hand with natural brown cotton (cuyuscate) and red threads, woven on the backstrap loom with cuyuscate in the warp and in the weft, the lower border showing various horizontal lines of mercerized white cotton along its width. The geometric and zoomorphic designs are brocaded with mercerized cotton, rayon, and acrylic, and spaced by means of 'separators', or rujiki´al. It also presents creyas or red stripes. Its vertical neck has a velvet application, the same as the armholes.</p>	