



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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DISPLAYING TEXTILES IN THE HOME

by Amy DiPlacido

It is a great joy to collect *huipils* and other woven textiles, and a delight to showcase these treasures within the home as a method of keeping travel memories alive. These woven textiles are not only beautiful, but made with intricate designs and vibrant colors. They are considered an important cultural symbol to those who make, collect or purchase them as souvenirs during travels. If you are looking to display them in your home, there are several techniques you can use to exhibit their beauty, artistic value and cultural significance.

Hanging on a Wall:

One of the easiest ways to display *huipils* or other woven textiles is to hang them on a wall. This display technique allows you to show off the design and colors of the blouse while also adding a unique two-dimensional piece of art to your space, whether traditional or modern. You can use hooks and a clothesline to hang the *huipil*, or a dowel or wooden slat, with eye hooks at either end, to run through the work. You can also cover your instrument of choice with cotton to protect the woven fabric of the displayed textile. To pin the rest of the fabric in place, you can use professional grade insect pins to tack loose corners down.

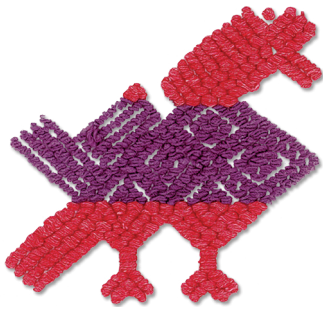
Framing:

If you have trusted framers you've used in the past, you can take your textile for a professional consultation. Because of a textile's dimensionality, framers will most likely suggest putting it in a shadow box to protect it from dust and damage. A shadow box is similar to a traditional frame but larger in width, like a display case. The framer will use the appropriate hardware to connect the displayed object with the frame, most likely a series of professional and archival pins that do not stress the textile.

Use a Mannequin:

Another great way to display *huipils* is to place them on a mannequin. This will give it a more realistic shape and allow you to show off its original form and intricate details. You can use a full-sized mannequin or a smaller version, depending on the size of the *huipil*.





IN THE MUSEUM



by Maya Fledderjohn

✦ Last year ended with not one but two fashion events. One was a splendid fashion show in Antigua, the culmination of our project with Juan Pablo Socarrás and the weavers that collaborated from Santo Domingo Xenacoj. The Museo now offers for sale a home goods collection designed by Socarrás and woven by the community. The second event was a successful high tea fundraiser, with a “hat dress code” fashion show featuring several Guatemalan designers shown by Stare Vie. Very instagramable and a lot of fun.

✦ Our annual calendar came out – its 40th edition! – with photographs from our archives. This is a great medium to share technical and ethnographic perspectives from our field work.

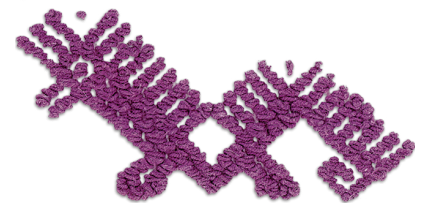
✦ “Palopó”, an exhibit based on the region around Lake Atitlán and featured at the 2018 London Design Biennale,

came back to Guatemala and was set up in the Museum, attracting hundreds of visitors. There was wide press coverage! For example, see this El Periódico article: bit.ly/42MLIHM

✦ We put up two temporary exhibits --“ExtraMuros” (outside the walls)-- to showcase the Museo more broadly. One was “*Tocados Tradicionales Mayas de Guatemala*” at the new shopping center Décima Plaza. It was a striking display, not only of *tocados* but of a huge San Mateo Ixtatán *lienzo*, donated by Susan Moore de Riojas. The other was “*Símbolos y Alegorías a la Vida*” for the Capillas Señoriales at the Los Parques cemetery.

Top: Palopó exhibit at the Museo Ixchel
Center: Violeta Gutiérrez (Museo Curator) and Maya Fledderjohn (President, Museo Board)
Bottom: *Tocados* exhibit at Décima Plaza





MAYA TEXTILES: THE STORIES THEY TELL



by Chase Davis

We are pleased to have mounted a significant exhibit at the Esperanza Academy Charter School in Philadelphia. The components adorned the hallways of the school's beautiful Teatro. During the two-day installation, we had helpers from Esperanza's art department and special support from Lia Marie De la Rosa [Esperanza '24], Kylei Irwin [Rowan University, with Raíces Latinoamericanas] and FOIM's interns GG Seibert, Sophia Rodack, and Sara Davis [all Agnes Irwin School '25]. It was a pleasure to work with these great students.

This was an extensive exhibit, with the main feature a "Market Scene" replicating a market in Sololá. We also had a longitudinal display section showing how the styles and fabrics of Guatemalan textiles have changed over time and a panel devoted to beautiful Nebaj textiles. On a

smaller scale, we had previously put on a one-day pop-up exhibit at the Willow Valley Communities, a senior retirement community. Over the course of both installations, our co-op weavers Jenny Juárez López and Florinda López put on live weaving demonstrations, which always attract attention and admiration.

Esperanza Academy was pleased to host our FOIM exhibit and the teachers were excited to incorporate it into their curricula whether they teach visual arts, history, math, or science. The exhibit opened February 24th and ran until May 15th, 2023.



Above Left: Interns setting up Esperanza exhibit
Above right: Esperanza market scene display
Right: Willow Valley Communities, Lancaster, PA

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DISPLAYING TEXTILES IN THE HOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

On or Stored Inside Furniture:

Pieces can also be displayed by draping them over furniture, such as chairs or the backs of sofas. This more casual look allows you to incorporate the textile into your everyday decor. You can also store your textiles in a trunk and take them out every so often to refold at different crease points, alternating stress points in the fabric. You can also find a furniture piece that has glass or clear acrylic to show your pieces neatly stored inside. Storing them out of sight but within reach also yields the opportunity for storytelling with visitors.

Overall, there are many techniques you can use to display *huipils* and woven textiles. Whether you choose to hang them on a wall, drape them over furniture, or work with a framer, it is important to keep the textile out of direct sunlight. Maintaining low light in your space will keep the colors longer. Another important reminder is to check in with your textiles to see if there are any areas that look stressed, and if so, remedy through refolding in an opposite direction, lay

flat for a time, or roll your textile and place it in storage, preferably in an acid free box. This will help maintain certain aspects of designs, patterns and dyed colors.

With a little creativity, you can turn a *huipil* or other textile into a stunning piece of art that adds beauty and cultural significance to your space while keeping alive the memory of your travels. And if you cannot settle on the right display method, you can always wear the *huipil* yourself, on special occasions!

If you find yourself inspired to try any of the above, we'd love to see! Email us high-resolution photos we can consider for our website, or tag them on our FOIM Instagram at [@ixchelfriends_textiles](https://www.instagram.com/ixchelfriends_textiles).



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