



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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COFRADÍA – TEXTURE AND COLOR

By: Raymond Senuk

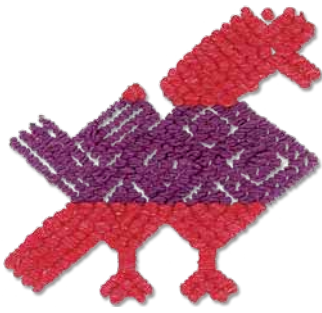
The exhibition, *Cofradía - Texture and Color* opened this last April in the temporary exhibition space of the Museo Ixchel and is scheduled to be up for two years. For those of you who are familiar with the museum, it is in the space previously occupied by the *Bordados* exhibition.

Cofradías play an integral role in indigenous Maya communities and in the lives of their inhabitants. A *cofradía* defies a simple description. It is the interplay of religion and community tradition with political, economic, and judicial elements. It is a brotherhood and sisterhood organized around the veneration of one of the pantheon of patron saints of a village. Members are chosen by their peers and serve a term of office, which carries civic, religious and significant financial responsibilities. Each community

has a ritual calendar that specifies the duty and obligations of each *cofradía*. Many guide books will provide a calendar of feast days for Maya communities and adventurous visitors who make their way to a celebration will be rewarded with the experience of a lifetime.

For those of you who do not have the time or the inclination for a feast-day visit to a traditional community, or simply want to prepare for such a visit, I recommend the *Cofradía* exhibition at the Museo Ixchel. The exhibition attempts to provide a sensory experience that approximates attending actual *cofradía* festivities. The exhibition is brought to life by photographs, video presentations, music, and, of course, textiles. Contemporary ceremonial costumes are displayed on mannequins in

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IN 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 9 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, and from 9 am to 1 pm 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 has become Guatemala City's premier venue for art and culture. Art exhibits, conferences and workshops are booked back-to-back year round. Every week the Museum attracts artists, scholars, students, and all manner of interested and interesting people. It's the place to be! In May the Museum celebrated International Museum Day with free admission and many activities. The Museum overflowed with public school children who were treated to a guided tour of the *Cofradías* exhibit and got to experiment with embroidery.

☼ May also saw an exhibition by five Mayan women artists from the town of Comalapa, which has a long and rich tradition of naïf artists. The naïf paintings sparkled like jewels on the walls, depicting town fairs, market day, children flying kites, people picking coffee and many other daily activities in the lives of the artists and their towns. It was a truly stunning event.

☼ In June scores of children came to a summer arts workshop to explore their talents in drawing, painting and sculpture. Enthusiasm of young voices filled the halls. June also was the celebration of Sweden Week with a Swedish Film Festival and an elegant cocktail party with performances of Swedish and Guatemalan folkloric music. The Museum looked striking with groupings of both Swedish and Mayan traditional costumes, arranged in themes,

contrasting the rich heritage of both countries. Guests included the Ambassador of Sweden and Swedish citizens, some of whom wore their traditional dresses, as did many of the Guatemalans in attendance

☼ July saw two very special events: an In Memoriam exhibition of art by Roberto Cabrera, one of Guatemala's most iconic artists who experimented in sculpture, painting, ballet choreography, and other media, as well as an exhibition of Guatemalan artists' creations based on the wooden spinning top that continues to be a favorite with Guatemalan children. The show was a happy event of whimsy, color and fantasy.

☼ A Fall Gala fundraiser was held in October to honor David Ordóñez, a respected Guatemalan artist who has been a significant supporter of the Museum since its early days. The Gala showcased an exhibition of Ordóñez's signature work, highly colorful graphic images that play off Mayan *traje* and textiles, one of his central themes.

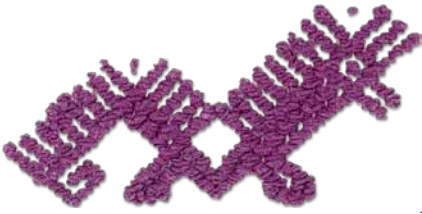
☼ Stay close to your Museum on Facebook! They do a wonderful job of posting photos of the exhibitions, conferences and other events. Like the Museo's page to learn more about the museum your donations support!

IXCHEL PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH FOIM

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

Five of Ixchel's best selling publications are available through the US-based Friends of the Ixchel Museum. *Cofradía: Texture and Color* is \$30, *Rostros de Guatemala Indígena, Images of Indigenous Guatemala* by Anne Girard is \$40, *Bordados: Stitches That Unite Cultures* is \$30, and the folded maps *Maya Ceremonial Huipiles of Guatemala* and *Maya Huipiles of Guatemala* are \$15 each. Shipping and handling is additional.





NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Lisa Dyer Fitzpatrick

Lisa has a special love for Guatemala, its rich culture and Mayan heritage as her mother was a born and raised Guatemalan. Although she grew up in DC, Lisa spent many summers visiting her grandmother and extended family in Guatemala.

Lisa has a BA from New York University (NYU) with a major in Romance languages. Married and now with three grown children and two grandchildren, she has followed her husband around the world. Upon retirement, they have made their home in Guatemala City. She is presently on the boards of several family businesses.



Elizabeth Bailey

Elizabeth spent many years as a financial journalist for Fortune, Forbes, The New York Times and Institutional Investor. She also has experience as a family therapist and has been a columnist on psychology and finance for The Financial Times.

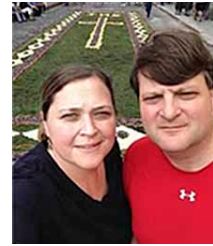
Elizabeth is closely connected to Guatemala through her service on the board of Mercado Global, a non-profit that connects women weavers in Guatemala with retailers worldwide while granting the women micro loans to buy looms and providing financial literacy and health care education. She has also served on the board of several other non-profits in the US.

Elizabeth is currently writing a memoir while continuing work with non-profits.

Chase Davis

Chase was born in Guatemala and while he has spent most of his life in the US, he retains strong ties to his country of birth. Chase currently works for Locust Electric Sales, a leading manufacturer's representative firm of commercial electric equipment.

Chase has a BA in History from Temple University. He enjoys spending his free time playing tennis and paddle tennis, and volunteering at his daughters' school. Chase currently resides in Malvern, Pennsylvania with his wife, Shannon, and their two daughters.



Shannon Davis

Shannon is an enthusiastic admirer of Maya textile weavings and visits Guatemala often with her family. She has a BA in Political Philosophy from Loyola University of Maryland and a MA in Educational Leadership and Administration from Immaculata University. She has worked as an ESL, Spanish, and bilingual teacher for almost twenty years.

Shannon enjoys photography, music, and traveling in her free time. She lives in Malvern, Pennsylvania with her husband Chase, and their two daughters.



COFRADÍA CONTINUED

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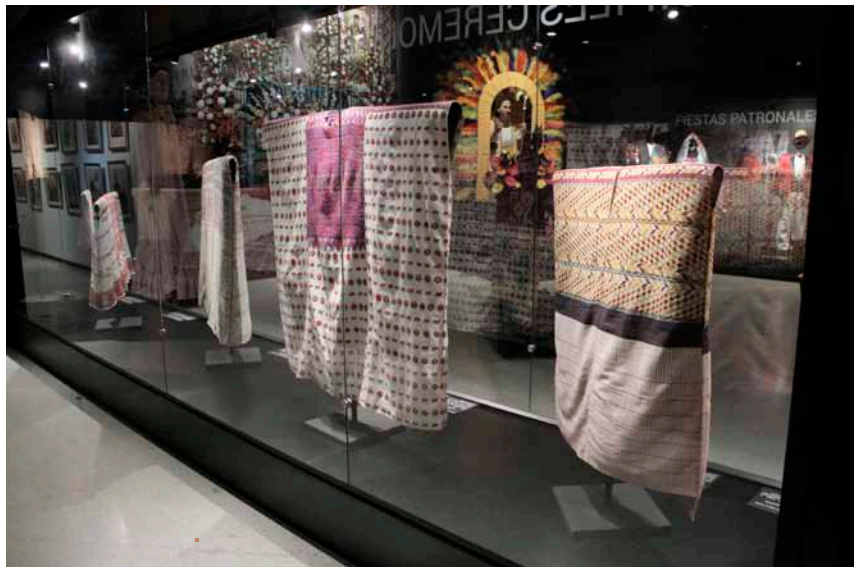
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in conjunction with supporting artifacts and photographs. For the connoisseur of antique *huipiles*, some dating to the 19th century, there is a large vitrine that can be viewed from both sides to better examine the material. The exhibit space contains historic 19th century photographs as well as contemporary photography. There is an *anda* (a litter to carry a statue of a saint in procession) and a *gigante* (eight foot stylized figure danced by a person inside during festivities). See all this and more in an exciting exhibition space illuminated with dramatic lighting.

The museum has been preparing for this exhibition for the last few years. It is the first exhibition to have both bilingual label copy and exhibition catalogue available on opening day. We are very proud of the efforts

of the staff and their resulting success. I want to recognize a number of individuals who made this exhibit possible: Violeta Gutiérrez, Armando Mazariegos, Pilar Cruz, Lucía Jiménez, and many other members of the staff. A special thanks to corporations and individuals in Guatemala for providing their support. The Friends of the Ixchel Museum received a significant bequest in 2015 that along with your support provided major funding for the exhibition and publication.



Please visit ixchelfriends.org



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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