

## Piece of the Month 2017

Month	Description	Image
January	<p>Ceremonial Huipil            Patzicía, Chimaltenango            Mayan Language: Kaqchikel            Ixchel Museum Collection: MI-05163</p> <p>This is a ceremonial Huipil made of two canvases, woven on a waist loom with cotton cuyuscate, mercerized cotton and silk. In this huipil, the color red predominates. It also presents the symbol of a dog, which is associated with the name of the Patzi'a community, which means water dog.</p>	 <p>The image shows a red ceremonial huipil laid flat. It features a central vertical seam and a decorative border along the bottom edge with a repeating pattern of small, colorful motifs. The fabric has a fine, woven texture.</p>

Month	Description	Image
February	<p>Nahualá, Sololá            Mayan language: K'iche'            Ixchel Museum Collection: (MI-05384)            Year of manufacture: 1970 c.</p> <p>This is an everyday huipil made out of two cloth panels woven on a backstrap loom with mercerized cotton. It features a "star or ch'umil", that according B. Arathoon (Sown symbols, 2005), "This motif has been a part of the Mesoamerican cosmological repertoire since Olmec times. It can be seen in celestial bands along with the sun, the moon and particularly Venus. It is also featured in codices, such as the Popol Vuh. It is known as "the star that precedes the sun."</p>	

Month	Description	Image
March	<p>             Ceremonial Huipil              San Martín Jilotepeque, Chimaltenango              Mayan language: Kaqchikel              Ixchel Museum Collection: Julia de Plocharski (P-138)              Year of manufacture: 1920c.           </p> <p>             This is a ceremonial huipil made out of two cloth panels woven on a backstrap loom with brown cotton (Cuyuscate). It features geometric designs a "Kumatzín or arco", "Kumatz in Kaqchikel means snake, which may be associated with the feathered serpent, a pre-Hispanic concept". (text extracted from calendar Textile Symbols, Ixchel Museum of Indigenous Dress, 1999.)           </p>	 <p>The image shows a rectangular ceremonial huipil laid flat. It features a complex design of horizontal bands with various geometric patterns, including zig-zags, diamonds, and stripes. The color palette is primarily purple, pink, and brown, with some white and yellow accents. The top edge has a distinct neckline with a small opening.</p>

Month	Description	Image
<p>April</p>	<p>Ceremonial Huipil            San Juan Comalapa, Chimaltenango            Mayan language: Kaqchikel            Ixchel Museum Collection: (MI-03245)            Year of manufacture: 1930c.</p> <p>This is a ceremonial huipil made out of two cloth panels woven on a backstrap loom with brown cotton (Cuyuscate) and silk. It presents geometric designs and symbols like the “Rupan Plato” defined as “valuable or esteemed ritual object: a deep dish of majolica with a figure such as a tiger or b’alam. Cofradía members in Comalapa use it to bless bread and fruit in church”. (text extracted from calendar Textile Symbols, Ixchel Museum of Indigenous Dress, 1999.)</p>	

Month	Description	Image
May	<p>Ceremonial huipil            Tecpán Guatemala, Chimaltenango            Mayan language: Kaqchikel            Ixchel Museum collection: Julia de Plocharski (P-64)            Year of manufacture: 1940 c.</p> <p>This ceremonial huipil is made of two cloth panels woven on a backstrap loom using natural brown cotton (cuyuscate) and silk. It features geometric motifs known as “snake or kumatz’in”. “It represents the hills that go up and down (juyu) or the ups and downs in a woman’s life.” (B. Arathoon, Sown Symbols, 2005).</p>	 <p>The image shows a rectangular piece of woven fabric, likely a ceremonial huipil, laid flat. It has a rich red background with a complex pattern of geometric shapes. The pattern consists of horizontal bands of zig-zag lines, diamonds, and other motifs in shades of blue, white, and green. The fabric appears to be made of a textured material, possibly cotton or silk, and has a slightly irregular, hand-woven appearance.</p>

Month	Description	Image
June	<p>Ceremonial huipil            San Juan Cotzal, Quiché            Mayan language: Ixil            Ixchel Museum collection: Julia de Plocharski (P-22)            Year of manufacture: 1920 c.</p> <p>This ceremonial <i>huipil</i> is made of three cloth panels woven on a backstrap loom using mercerized cotton, wool and silk. It features geometric and zoomorphic designs, such as the "two headed eagle" symbol, which is "a motif of European origin that represents pre-Hispanic concepts: the great god who had two faces; one looking forward and the other, backward; one that saw good and the other, evil; or one that saw towards the earth and the other, towards the sky." (Text taken from the calendar: Textile Symbols, Ixchel Museum of Indigenous Dress, 1999)</p>	 <p>The image shows a ceremonial huipil laid flat. It consists of three vertical panels. The central panel is the most prominent, featuring a complex, repeating geometric pattern in shades of red, yellow, and black. The pattern includes diamond shapes and vertical bands. The two side panels are plain white. There are decorative horizontal bands at the top and bottom, also featuring geometric motifs. The garment has a simple, rectangular shape with a rounded neckline.</p>