

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 opening and a decorative border with a repeating pattern of small, colorful motifs. The fabric has a textured appearance, consistent with the description of being woven on a waist loom.</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
<p>March</p>	<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>	

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, repeating geometric pattern. The pattern consists of horizontal bands of zig-zag and diamond shapes in shades of blue, white, and green. The fabric appears to be made of a textured material, possibly cotton or silk, and has a small dark opening at the top center, suggesting it was part of a garment.</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>

Month	Description	Image
July	<p>Ceremonial huipil San Marting Jilotepeque, Chimaltenango Mayan language: Kaqchikel Ixchel Museum collection: (MI-04068) Year of manufacture: 1920 c.</p> <p>This ceremonial huipil is made of two cloth panels woven on a backstrap loom using mercerized cotton and silk. It features geometric designs known as “kumatz’in or arch”. “The Kaqchikel term kumatz means snake, which gives the idea of it being associated with the feathered serpent, a concept of pre-Hispanic origin.” (Text taken from the calendar: Textile Symbols, Ixchel Museum of Indigenous Dress, 1999)</p>	