



## Piece of the Month 2018

Month	Description	Image
January	<p>Overblouse            Mixco, Guatemala            Mayan language: Poqomam            Collection: Julia R. de Plochanski P-74            Year of manufacture: circa 1900</p> <p>This is a ceremonial cofradía huipil made with three cloth panels woven on a backstrap loom and sown together by hand using backstitching. The edges of the neck and sleeves feature handmade natural cotton and wool bobbin lace. The upper border of the garment is hand embroidered with hand spun natural white cotton dyed with purpura pansa snail (purple). These decorations are enhanced with metal sequins, which were commonly used at the time.</p>	

Month	Description	Image
February	<p>Salcajá, Quetzaltenango            Mayan language: K'iche'            Colección Museo Ixchel: MI-03746/090            Year of manufacture: 1980</p> <p>This corte or skirt is made of one cloth panel woven on a treadle loom using acrylic fibers and mercerized cotton. It is worn in the wraparound style. The thin yellow, red and green stripes of the warp (or vertical threads of the fabric) contrast with the complex and varied jaspe designs woven in the warp and weft (or horizontal threads). Jaspe is a tie-dye technique: threads are knotted to create the figures and the knots prevent the dye from penetrating, thus keeping the threads' original color. After dyeing, the knots are dried and undone and the designs are woven using the undyed parts of the threads.</p>	

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March	<p>Ceremonial Pants            Almolonga, Quetzaltenango            Mayan language: K'iche'            Collection: Museo Ixchel: MI-01516            Year of manufacture: circa 1900</p> <p>These are ceremonial cofradía trousers woven on a backstrap loom and sewn together by hand. The red threads dyed with alizarin were used in the warp and weft stripes and on the supplementary weft brocaded motifs. The red silk threads, dyed with cochineal (obtained from the body of the dried insect <i>Dactylopius coccus</i> Costa) were only used for the embroidery (B. K. de Arathoon and R. E. Senuk: «Embroidery: Stitches that Unite Cultures», p.92).</p>	 <p>The image shows a pair of ceremonial trousers laid flat. The fabric is light-colored with a fine grid pattern of red threads. The lower portion of the trousers features several horizontal bands of red and purple stripes, with intricate brocaded motifs in red and purple threads. The waistband is elasticated.</p>

Month	Description	Image
April	<p>Ceremonial table cloth            Quetzaltenango, Quetzaltenango            Mayan language: K'iche'            Collection: Museo Ixchel MI-00662            Year of manufacture: circa 1930</p> <p>This table cloth is used for cofradía ceremonies. It is made with two cloth panels woven on a backstrap loom and sewn together by hand using a basting stitch. This piece was made according to the style norms of the Quetzaltecan textile tradition, using yellow, purple and red cotton and silk threads, which are characteristic of the place. Almost all of its supplementary weft brocaded motifs are geometric and zoomorphic. It features small fringes on its edges.</p>	

Month	Description	Image
May	<p>Chachal – Charm Necklace            San Miguel Chicaj, Baja Verapaz            Mayan language: Achi</p> <p>This is a traditional necklace consisting of a single thread and made with red plastic beads, coins and rhombus shaped trinkets. Fuchsia, green, yellow and blue cotton pompons hang at the center as a pendant with a cylindrical cross at the end. It is distinctive of this place and worn on special occasions.</p>	