



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

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A SPECTRUM OF EXHIBITS

An important part of our mission is educating the general public on the beauty and intricacy of Guatemalan weaving. It is one that we share with the Museo Ixchel.

We are in an especially interesting phase now, with 3 very different exhibits on display or in development in Guatemala and the US. You have already heard about our upcoming show at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles, opening July 21st in California. But there are two others to admire.

The Museo Ixchel has just opened a significant “refresh” of its sensational *Cofradía: Color and Texture* exhibit (see our November 2016 newsletter for photos, a description, and a context

on *cofradías*). Major museums often do this to rotate delicate historical textiles, and the Ixchel took advantage of this to introduce new design and display elements which highlight the actual process of weaving. The formal opening of *Cofradía: Warp and Weft* took place on February 12th to great acclaim. We had the pleasure of experiencing the space during our recent Friends of the Ixchel Museum (FOIM) board meeting in March. In actuality, it is well beyond a refresh, it is a new exhibit. The ceiling has been changed to represent a giant loom, the side cases have different, yet equally stunning, historic examples of *cofradía* garments, the information panels are completely new, and the center section now uses a stunning floral church backdrop with a pedestal displaying processional clothing and accoutrements. Accompanying this exhibit is a new bilingual publication which is available for purchase through FOIM in the US (see p. 3).

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Refreshed Cofradía exhibit



IN THE MUSEUM



Redesigned Pettersen gallery



✚ We closed last year by celebrating our 41st Anniversary with a Gala Dinner featuring *chachales*. Many families loaned us their treasured heirlooms to be modeled and admired by our guests. It was a unique event and a huge success.

✚ 2019 had barely kicked off when the museum was already buzzing with excitement. We proudly co-hosted an event called Couture Lab, organized by Pacunam, an initiative to bring together artisans, top designers, and movers and shakers from the fashion industry. Donna Karan was one of the panelists, as were Naeem Khan, Livia Firth, Carmen Busquets and other prominent figures sharing the mission of *Fostering Sustainable Practices and Improving the Lives of Artisans and Creatives in Latin America...* See couturelabcoalition.com

✚ On February 12, the Museum opened a refreshed *Cofradía* exhibit and Carmen Pettersen room...both on the same night! The giant loom on the ceiling was the highlight of the *Cofradía* room, which was dramatically altered throughout. The accompanying publication *Cofradía, Trama y Urdimbre* is now available, thanks to donations from FOIM, Café Barista and Duwest. The Carmen Pettersen room was reimagined; it now displays each painting with an actual textile in front. This way

as the visitor sees the piece, the whole experience is put into context. The muted wall color and reduced number of paintings more prominently displays the artist's work, enriches the room, and beautifully concludes the visit to the Museum.

✚ Only weeks later, a porcelain exhibit from Limoges was being set up. It received huge media attention and was the first of its class in Guatemala. Thousands of pieces of classic and modern porcelain, mostly white, were spectacularly displayed -- including an animated table and a Samurai costume. The exhibit included a gala dinner, workshops, guided tours and performances, and had two other venues in the city.

✚ The most recent event and fund-raiser for the Museum was a tour of private homes and gardens in Antigua. Those who participated were thrilled to discover the wonders that hide behind those massive walls. The last home visited—which is also a spa and coffee plantation—was the venue for an outdoor luncheon. In Guatemala it is very difficult to get people to open their homes for visits, but they were willing to do it in order to support the Ixchel.

Things at museums sometimes seem to move at a glacial pace, but not so with the Ixchel! 2019 promises to be an exciting year for us.



A SPECTRUM OF EXHIBITS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT



At the other end of the spectrum is a small gem of an exhibit aimed at US school children. It is the first of what we hope will be a broader program being developed by FOIM board directors Chase and Shannon Davis. The exhibit was held at The Agnes Irwin School in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, opening March 1 for two weeks. The reception was so positive that it was extended through both Agnes Irwin's Arts Week and Spanish Week and thus closed April 15th. The school embraced the exhibit, ensuring that students of all grades visited. Key to that level of engagement was not only the support of the Spanish and Fine Art Departments but also extensive teacher resource materials that were developed to provide age-appropriate background information, games (e.g. a bilingual scavenger hunt), and study materials by discipline. Much of what made this exhibit lively and informative was the use of elements beyond textiles. Many prints were displayed (some were drawings by Barbara Nottebohm – director Carlos' mother) as was a collection of *Utzil* dolls, donated by Robert and Isa Allen to FOIM several years ago. These marvelous paper mache painted dolls wear identifiable traditional *trajes* and provided a stunning, fun, and educational backdrop throughout. The Davises are working to create "exhibit-in-a-box" materials that will enable other schools/venues to more easily mount similar exhibits. Bravo!



Photo: Agnes Irwin School exhibit

ANNOUNCING A NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

COFRADÍA: TRAMA Y URDIMBRE/ WARP AND WEFT

Contains detailed descriptions of the textiles and three contextual essays. Lavishly-illustrated with both collection and current field photography. Soft cover, 150 pages and bi-lingual (English and Spanish). [Note: It is a companion to the previously-published *Cofradía: Textura y Color/ Texture and Color.*]

Price: \$30.00 plus shipping and handling
[if ordering both publications, combined price is \$55]

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



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CONGRATULATIONS TO JOE BORGATTI

On the publication of his book *Adela: the Noble Birth and Costly Death of Easy Venture Capitalism in Latin America*

MAYAN TRAJE: A TRADITION IN TRANSITION

JULY 21 – OCTOBER 13, 2019

At the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles

Outstanding examples of Guatemalan clothing from the early 20th century to contemporary fashion – from the collection of the Friends of the Ixchel Museum.

Sunday July 21

4-6pm Opening Public Reception

3-4pm Members Reception and Tour

Saturday Sept. 21

Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day and free Community Day celebrating Hispanic Heritage month

SJQUILTMUSEUM.ORG



Located on 6a Calle final, zona 10, on the grounds of the Universidad Francisco Marroquín in Guatemala City.

Open 9 am to 5 pm M-F | 9 am to 1 pm 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
telephone 502 2331 3622
facebook.com/MuseoIxchelDelTrajeIndigena/



FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

PO Box 30, Princeton, NJ 08542 USA

Members receive free entrance to FOIM exhibits in the U.S.

Also entrance to the Museo Ixchel in Guatemala, with discounts on select purchases in its shop.

Custodia	\$5,000	Faja	\$100
Huipil Ceremonial	\$1,000	Cinta Seda	\$50
Huipil	\$500	Cinta	\$25
Corte	\$250		

Friends of the Ixchel Museum is an American 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation and donations are deductible by the donor for U.S. general income tax purposes.

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Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc.

Please mail this form with your donation.

For more information e-mail foiminfo@gmail.com

or visit ixchelfriends.org

