

FRIENDS OF THE IXCHEL MUSEUM

Supporting The Textile Arts of Guatemala

NEWSLETTER Volume Thirty Five • Number One

SPRING 2024



INSPIRED BY GUATEMALAN TEXTILES, Artists Rise to the Challenge

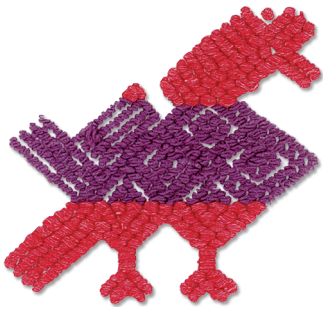
by Luciana Jabur

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We have long been keen to share the beauty of Guatemalan textiles with a younger audience as well as those in the fibre arts community.

To stimulate and expand interest, the Friends of the Ixchel Museum (FOIM) created an Instagram Challenge. It ran from September 15 through November 2023 and, with 60 submissions meeting our criteria, the response exceeded our expectations. We were overwhelmed by the diversity and outstanding quality of the body of artwork – underscoring the enduring influence of Guatemala’s textile heritage and transcending its traditional medium of fabric.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



IN THE MUSEUM



☼ The artwork “Inclusión”, a large mural which represented Guatemala at the 2022 Venice Biennale, is now on loan to the Museo Ixchel after its return from a Mexican tour celebrating 100 years of muralism. It has been a wonderful new attraction – and its creator Christian Escobar, known as Chrispapita, is now a board member.

☼ We also welcomed two more new Board members: Andrés Mendizabal, a marketing expert, and Carolina Claveria, the owner of a large retail chain. Sadly, María Renée de Aguilar resigned from the Board and her position as our General Director, but looks forward to joint projects with the Fundación Paiz in her role as Art and Culture Coordinator.

☼ Violeta Gutiérrez, our curator, hosted a virtual tour of the heart of the museum, the collection room. Most people will never enter this very special space, and there was huge inter-

est in this conference. It was recorded and will be posted soon on our YouTube channel. Another lecture addressed the topic of symbols and legends in the textiles.

☼ Exhibits: Jorge Chavarría exhibited photos from several collections or periods in his career, including photography on wet plates and cyanotype. You can see more of his very interesting work on Instagram @fotojorgechavarría. Also, we participated with a Museo stand at the recent Fundación Paiz open air art show on Avenida Las Américas.

☼ Looking forward: In March, a group of women will hold a “conservatorio” De la Urdimbre a la Trama and share their relationship with textiles from their different perspectives. In March and April, we will put on a photo-exhibit featuring Semana Santa. In June, we plan a multi-museum trolley tour leaving from the Ixchel.

Left: Men still in *traje* in Huehuetenango (field research)
 Right(Back row from left to right):
 Claudia Cabrera de Sapper, Andrés Mendizabal, Kimberly de Pivaral, Estefanía Boppel de Biguria, Christian Escobar
 (Front row from left to right):
 Virginia Godoy de Pfister, Violeta Gutiérrez, Maya Fledderjohn, Melanie Arimany de Paiz



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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Expecting artists from the US and Guatemala, we also received participation from around the globe, including Chile, Mexico, Switzerland, the UK, Colombia, Argentina, the Netherlands, France, Nicaragua, and Pakistan. Their submissions highlight the impact of Guatemala in contemporary art on both national and international platforms.

Themes were explored on a wide spectrum, ranging from pure aesthetics inspired by the colors, motifs, and patterns of Guatemalan textiles to visual narratives depicting personal experiences, social issues, and historical memories associated with the Maya diaspora.

Artworks exhibited a myriad of techniques and mediums – from hand weaving to oil and acrylic paintings, gold leaf, digital media, mixed media, natural dyes, metal sculptures, woodwork, and even ostrich eggs – all showcasing a blend of traditional and experimental approaches.

Currently, the eligible submissions are featured on our Instagram page @ixchelfriends_textiles, and we are already working on the next phase, which may include a virtual exhibit.

We are proud that the number of followers has expanded organically to over 1,000 (i.e., without resorting to paid ads) and continues to grow steadily. Our diverse followership comprises

textile and non-textile artists, NGOs supporting Guatemalan weavers' work, international weaving guilds, museums, and textile conservation organizations. One-third of our followers are based in the United States, with the remaining two-thirds hailing from various corners of the globe, including the UK, Guatemala, Japan, and beyond. And now nearly half of them are aged between 25 and 44 years old.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants, supporters, and followers for making this Instagram Challenge a resounding success.

Warm regards, the Instagram Challenge Team (Luciana Jabur, Anne Lamborn, Amy DiPlacido, and Ana-Maria Zaugg)

Together, we continue to celebrate and preserve the rich cultural heritage of Guatemalan textiles. Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to engage with us in the future.

Join Us!

Friends of the Ixchel Museum 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.

For more information e-mail foiminfo@gmail.com or visit ixchelfriends.org and [instagram.com/ixchelfriends_textiles](https://www.instagram.com/ixchelfriends_textiles)

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Check Enclosed of \$ _____ Interested in Volunteering

Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Ixchel Museum, Inc. Please mail this form with your donation to

15 Roszel Road, Suite 10 Princeton, NJ 08540 USA



INSPIRED BY GUATEMALAN TEXTILES, Featured Artists

COVER LEFT: Marie-Noëlle Fontan, from France: In 2023, Marie-Noëlle Fontan crafted "*Huipil Floreado*," a 68 x 35 cm cotton thread tapestry using natural dyes, bougainvillea flowers, and passion-flower leaves. Inspired by Guatemalan textiles since 1974, she intertwines her love for weaving with her passion for plants, creating a vibrant homage to Guatemala's flora.

COVER RIGHT: Manuel Navichoc, from San Pedro de la Laguna, Sololá, integrates elements of the typical Tz'utujil *traje* into his art, honoring the ethnic group through linearity, texture, and color. "*Aire de Etsperanza*" exemplifies this fusion using Indian ink, acrylic ink, and gold leaf on cotton canvas. Year 2022.

PAGE 3 LEFT: Claudia Brncic Becker, a Chilean textile artist, draws inspiration from Guatemala by infusing her work with vibrant colors and intricate designs. Using techniques like *macramé* and *barreling*, she creates contemporary pieces influenced by Mayan and Guatemalan textile art. She focuses on color symbolism for unique pieces, such as "*Camino de Resistencia*," crafted in 2023.

PAGE 3 RIGHT: Ilaamen Pelshaw, US-based Guatemalan. Title: "*Cultural Reverence*" An acrylic painting on repurposed birch wood panel intricately blends Guatemalan fabric and pigments, portraying a geometric abstraction of a traditional tiger wood mask, showcasing Latin American folk artistry with vibrant hues and floral motifs. Year 2022.

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