

Oaxaca Stories in Cloth

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One of the important things about craft is the ability to preserve and document traditional methods and pass on cultural information to the next generation.

Oaxaca Stories in Cloth captures the rapidly disappearing stories and garment-making traditions of Oaxaca, in southern Mexico, where dyeing and weaving elaborate garments has long been a part of the indigenous culture. The book combines large, striking photos with the stories of people who make and wear the garments. It serves as a historical record of the designs that may one day be lost as people stop wearing them, and provides inspiration to crafters around the world and across genres. It's not a book that seeks crafters to replicate traditional designs—there are no how-to instructions or even detailed photographs of garments—but the color, designs, and motifs of these garments are sure to inspire.

From the colorful pompoms and plaited hair of a woman dressed for a wedding in San Martin Itunyoso to the bold animal designs woven into garments made in San Pablo Tijaltepec, these dazzling images give a glimpse into the daily life of those (mostly women) who still wear the traditional dress and documents a “last generation” in places where only the oldest still wear the traditional clothes.

SARAH E. WHITE (Cozy Up 2016)

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