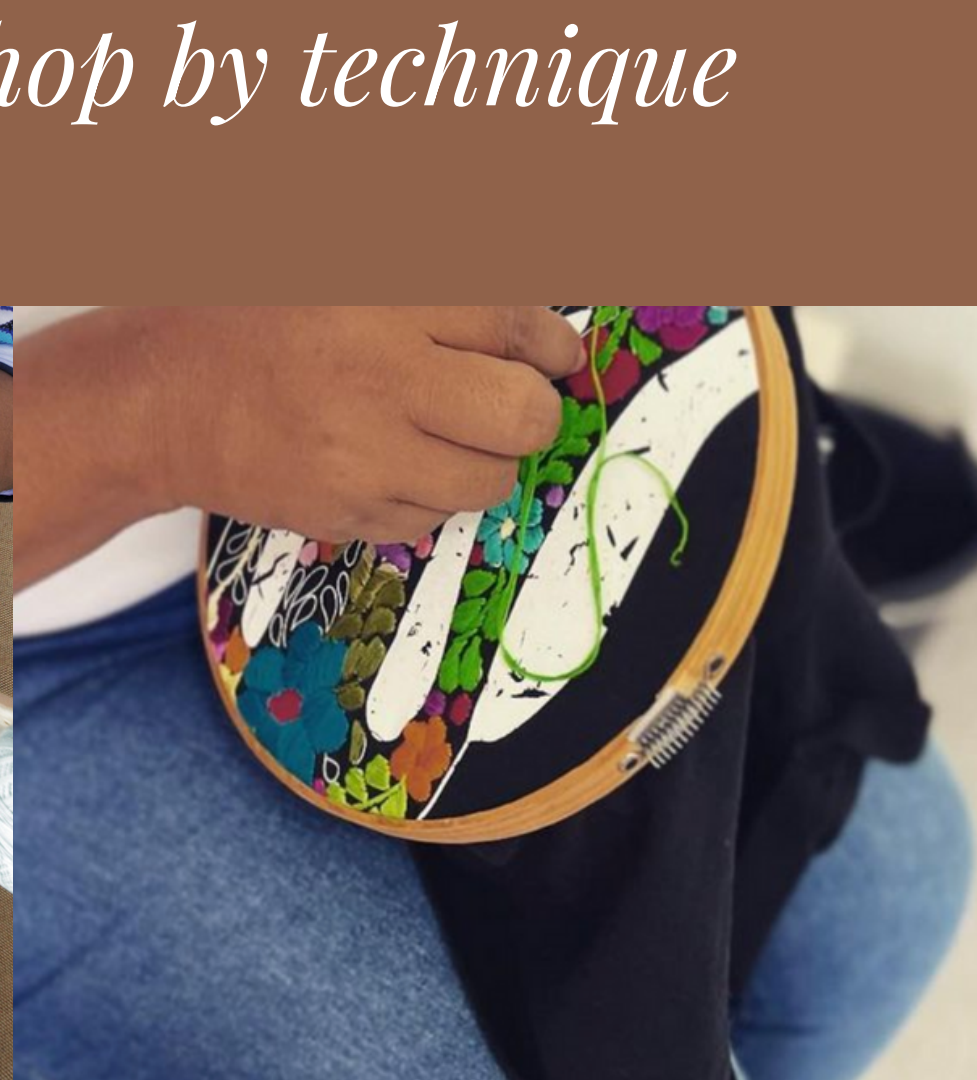




Techniques Manual

learn more & shop by technique



The inspiration behind our brand

Faryn Clark grew up visiting Mexico for over 30 years with her family, and her father was raised in Mexico when he was young.

Over the last several years in Mexico, more and more markets have emerged where products are being imported from overseas sources in China, leading to a decline in the traditional livelihoods of Indigenous artisans and creatives in Mexico. Additionally, these products, which have been passed down from generation to generation, are becoming increasingly scarce in the marketplace as fewer artisans pass down their techniques to their children due to a lack of education. The time required to produce these unique pieces, the talent involved, and the unwillingness of consumers to pay the price for such products have all contributed to the dominance of mass-produced goods from overseas, thereby undermining the autonomy of Mexico's artisan community and leaving many with even fewer work opportunities than before.

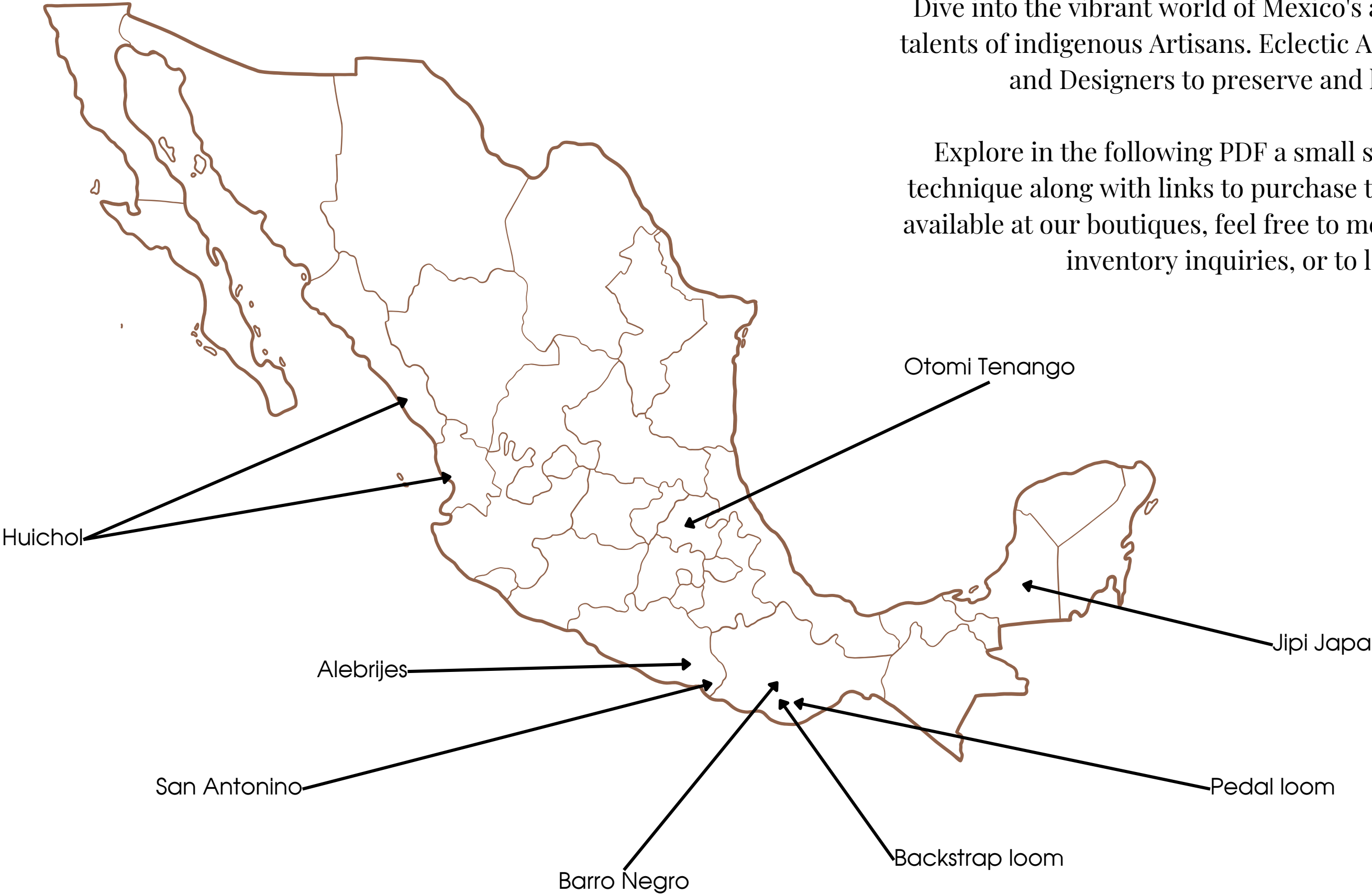


In the following PDF, we delve into the intricate details and rich cultural histories woven into each unique craft. Join us on this exploration of craftsmanship, tradition, and the cultural tapestry that defines Mexico's artisanal heritage that inspires our brand.

We are firm believers that promoting pieces that pay homage to these crafts, while preserving historic techniques and production methods, will contribute to their long-term preservation.

Dive into the vibrant world of Mexico's artisanal techniques as we explore the talents of indigenous Artisans. Eclectic Array collaborates directly with Artisans and Designers to preserve and honor traditional techniques.

Explore in the following PDF a small selection of pieces representing each technique along with links to purchase them on our website. A wider variety is available at our boutiques, feel free to message us directly for specific requests, inventory inquiries, or to locate your nearest store.



Huichol or wixarika Art –

type of art declared cultural Heritage by SIC México

[link to view the record](#)

[link to meet Tau](#)

Huichol or Wixárika art, originating from the mountainous regions of western Mexico, is a vibrant form of traditional indigenous art deeply intertwined with the spiritual beliefs, cultural traditions, and ceremonial practices of the Huichol people. Characterized by intricate beadwork and colorful designs, this art form uses beads or yarn meticulously placed on various surfaces such as wooden sculptures, masks, and textiles.

These designs vividly depict symbols and motifs holding significant meaning within Huichol culture, representing elements from their mythology, cosmology, and spiritual beliefs. The vibrant patterns in Huichol art reflect the shamanic experiences during ritualistic peyote ceremonies, believed to symbolize visions and insights obtained during these spiritual journeys.

In essence, Huichol art is a visual expression of cultural heritage, serving to preserve and transmit ancestral knowledge, stories, and spiritual connections to future generations.

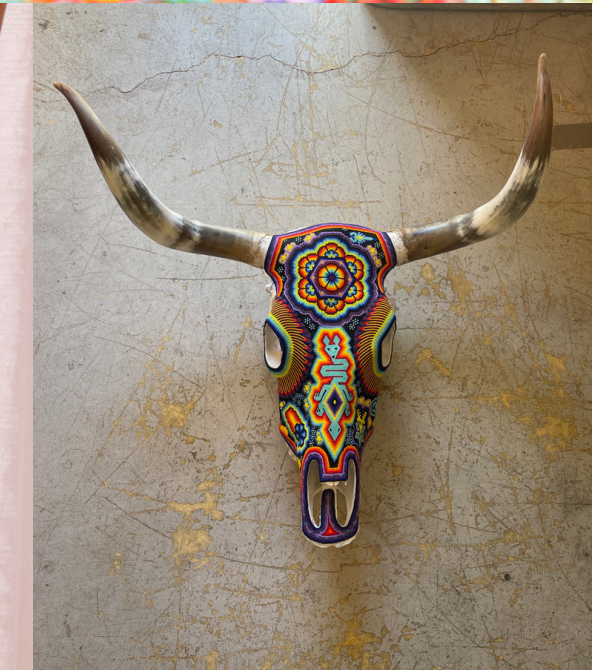
We work with 4 Huichol Groups of Artisans

Located in: Todos Santos, Jalisco & Nayarit

[Click here to discover more about this technique and its history](#)

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Huichol Art

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Otomi – Tenango

[Click here to discover more about this technique and its history](#)

Otomi or Tenango art, rooted in the Tenango region of Hidalgo and the Mezquital Valley in central Mexico, is a distinctive form of traditional Mexican textile art known for its intricate and vibrant designs. Using a technique called "blind stitch" embroidery, Otomi artisans skillfully embellish fabric with multicolored threads, depicting floral and animal motifs, geometric patterns, and scenes from everyday life, nature, and mythology.

These textiles carry rich symbolism, reflecting the cultural elements of Otomi traditions, beliefs, and cosmology. Each pattern and motif holds cultural significance, telling stories of their history and daily life. Otomi/Tenango textiles are highly prized for their unique designs, showcasing the artistic skills of Otomi artisans and serving as a means of preserving and expressing the cultural heritage of the Otomi people, passing down their stories and artistry through the generations.

We work with 7 Suppliers and Groups of Artisans

Located in: Oaxaca, Guadalajara and Hidalgo

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Tenango Art

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San Antonino

- *type of art declared cultural Heritage by SIC México*

[Click here to discover more about this technique and its history](#)

San Antonino Embroidery is a traditional Mexican textile art form originating from the village of San Antonino Castillo Velasco in the Oaxaca region. This unique embroidery style is characterized by its intricate and colorful floral designs, typically embroidered onto cotton or muslin fabric.

Artisans in San Antonino use delicate and precise hand embroidery techniques to create stunning floral motifs. These embroideries often feature vibrant, lifelike depictions of flowers, leaves, and other botanical elements, meticulously stitched with fine, brightly colored threads.

At Eclectic Array, we offer traditionally embroidered dresses in delicious fabrics to wear around the year. We also have unique pieces like the amazing Rock and Roll t-shirts that mix the tradition in modern, unique, purposeful pieces.

We work with 4 Suppliers and Groups of Artisans

Located in: Oaxaca, Guadalajara and Hidalgo

SHOP
San Antonino

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Handwoven Straps

[Click here to discover more about this technique and its history](#)

Our very first product is the dog collar, inspired by our founder's encounter with Pascuala in Chiapas six years ago. Witnessing the exceptional quality of these handcrafted five-thread embroidered straps, which require 2 to 3 days to make and endure for years, sparked the idea of transforming these traditional hand-made straps into fashionable accessories, leading to the creation of the extraordinary product line, Eclectic Array designs.

Creating and selling hand-threaded straps is the primary source of income for the community, where individuals learn the trade from a very young age.

We offer a diverse range of over 8 products, including dog collars, leashes, hat bands, bag straps, camera straps, yoga mat straps, key chains, belts, totes, and more. The time taken to weave the straps varies, ranging from 2 to 8 hours a day. Crafting a Chiapas Tote, for instance, provides a month's worth of work for the artisan creating it.

Initially, our orders were fulfilled by purchasing all the straps available at Pascuala's stand. Now, a community of 50 women collaborates to produce these exceptional products, catering to orders to create over 8 different products throughout the entire year.

We work with a group of more than 50 women artisans
Located in: Chiapas

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Collection

[Link to Meet Pascuala](#)

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Backstrap loom

- *type of art declared cultural Heritage by SIC México*

[Link to view record](#)

[Click here to discover more about this technique and its history](#)

The backstrap loom is a traditional weaving technique that involves an ingenious setup. In this method, the loom is attached between two fixed points, with one end secured to a stationary object and the other attached to a strap that goes around the weaver's back, providing tension to the warp threads.

The weaver sits on the ground or a low bench and controls the tension on the loom by leaning back or pulling forward. By adjusting body movements and the tension on the loom, the weaver can create various patterns and designs in the woven fabric.

We adore this process and manufacture with a community of artisans in Chiapas the unique strap that we use for our tennis shoes, viajera boots, cosmetic bags and more.

We work with 3 families of artisans.

Located in: Chiapas

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Collection

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Pedal Loom

- *type of art declared cultural Heritage by SIC México*

[Link to view record](#)

[Click here to meet Rodrigo](#)

The pedal loom is a more complex and larger-scale weaving apparatus compared to the backstrap loom. It consists of a sturdy frame with a set of pedals at the base, operated by the weaver's feet. The warp threads are attached to a beam at the front of the loom and extend towards the back, passing through a series of heddles and reeds.

The weaver stands in front of the loom, and by pressing different combinations of pedals, they create a shedding mechanism that raises and lowers specific sets of warp threads. This action forms an opening called a shed through which the weft thread is passed, creating the woven fabric.

It is simply and spectacle to witness, so much skill, focus, coordination and artistry to create these fabrics. Some of our most popular pieces made on backstrap loom are our delicious cotton throws.

We work with a family that has over 20 artisans working the pedal loom.

Located in: Oaxaca

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Collection

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Alebrije

Alebrijes, originating from the artistic town of San Martín Tilcajete in Oaxaca, Mexico, are vibrant folk art sculptures celebrated for their intricate and elaborate designs. Crafted from copal wood, these imaginative sculptures often depict fantastical creatures, seamlessly blending elements from both real and mythical animals. Artisans in San Martín Tilcajete demonstrate exceptional skill, meticulously carving, shaping, and decorating the wood to bring these whimsical beings to life.

The originator of the first alebrijes was Pedro Linares, who, during an illness, spent several days in a deep dream. In this dream, he envisioned various animals in different shapes, such as donkeys with wings and birds with horns, within a wooden realm. Upon regaining his health, he skillfully brought these creatures to life. To this day, these symbolic beings are considered guides and protectors, guiding individuals on their earthly journey and in the afterlife.

We work with 7 Suppliers and Groups of Artisans

Located in: Oaxaca, Guadalajara and Hidalgo



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Barro Negro

Barro Negro, or "black clay," is a distinctive form of pottery hailing from San Bartolo Coyotepec in Oaxaca, Mexico. Crafted by local artisans, this traditional pottery is renowned for its deep black color and polished finish. Created using a specific local clay, Barro Negro pieces are shaped by hand or on a wheel, dried, and then meticulously polished with a quartz stone to achieve the characteristic sheen.

The unique black hue is attained through a specialized firing process, during which the pottery is smothered with a mixture of wood and cow dung in a kiln. T. Barro Negro serves both functional and decorative purposes, with pieces ranging from dinnerware to ceremonial items, embodying the rich artistic traditions of Oaxaca and symbolizing the cultural identity of San Bartolo Coyotepec.

We love promoting Barro Negro and you'll find beautiful designs in all our our boutiques.

We work with a family that has over 10 artisans working the Barro Negro.

Located in: Oaxaca

SHOP
Barro Negro

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Jipi Japa

- *type of art declared cultural Heritage by SIC México*

[Link to view record](#)

[Click here to meet Laura](#)

Jipi Japa, known as "ixtle" or "Mexican palm," is a versatile natural fiber derived from agave plants like Agave lechuguilla and Agave cantala, found throughout various regions of southeast Mexico. This fibrous material serves as a foundational element in the crafting of handmade products and traditional crafts. Extracting fibers from agave leaves is just the beginning of the meticulous process, which includes cleaning, drying, dyeing, and employing weaving or braiding techniques to fashion a diverse range of items, from hats and baskets to mats, bags, and decorative pieces.

The crafts made from Jipi Japa not only exhibit the creative mastery and skill of the artisans but also pay homage to the cultural heritage and traditions of Mexican craftsmanship.

We work with 7 Suppliers and Groups of Artisans

Located in: Oaxaca, Guadalajara and Hidalgo

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Jipi Japa

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Weaving Stories, Stitching Futures: Ethical Fashion, Empowered Artisans.

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