

## Andean Textile Art & Culture

Summer program 2015



July 05 – July 25, 2015 / Calca - Sacred Valley of the Incas

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Su, 05	Arriving	
Mo,06	1 L Semiology of the Andean textiles / 3 L Weaving	3 L Pre-Columbian textile Art
Tu, 07	Dying workshop	Dying workshop
We,08	1 L Semiology of the Andean textiles / 3 L Weaving	2 L Pre-Columbian textile Art / 1 L Andean Mythology
Th, 09	4 L Andean Textile Art & Weaving	2 L Weaving / 1 L Andean Cosmology
Fr, 10	1 L Semiology of the Andean textiles / 3 L Weaving	2 L Pre-Columbian textile Art / 1 L Andean Mythology
Sa, 11	Free / excursions	Free / excursions
Su, 12	Free / excursions	Free / excursions
Mo,13	4 L Andean Textile Art & Weaving	Traditional mask-dances, Choreography and symbolism
Tu, 14	4 L Andean Textile Art & Weaving	Traditional mask-dances, Choreography and symbolism
We,15	Alb and masses, entrance of the <i>Ch'unchacha</i> dancers with tropical fruits, mass in quechua language dedicated to the indigenous principals (Varayoqs).	Parade of the best horses, donkey running competition, welcome to the muleteers. Evening: praises into the temple performed by the Qhapaqqolla dancers with traditional songs, serenades, fireworks, etc. Soiree and serenades
Th, 16	Alb with Qhapaq Negro dancers, masses, early in the morning pilgrimage of the k'achampa dancers to the Intihuatana sanctuary, ritual, come back to the village, mass, procession.	Procession, Traditional warfare
Fr, 17	Diana and the traditional Yuyachikuy, masses, Romerio in the cemetery	Traditional Mask dances
Sa, 18	Diana and the traditional Yuyachikuy, masses, procession, back of the Carmen of Ayñas	Kacharpary (finale) Traditional burial (P'ampanakuy) Occatarpuy, Maqtahuarkuy, Laccochikuy, Procession, Kacharpari y Qhaswa general.
So, 19	Free / excursion	Free / excursion
Mo,20	1 L Semiology of the Andean textiles / 3 L Weaving	3 L Andean Textile Art & Weaving
Tu, 21	4 L Andean Textile Art & Weaving	3 L Andean Textile Art & Cosmology

We, 22	3 L Andean Textile Art & Cosmology	2 L Pre-Columbian textile Art / 1 L Andean Mythology
Th, 23	1 L Semiology of the Andean textiles / 3 L Weaving	3 L Andean Textile Art & Cosmology
Fr, 24	4 L Andean Textile Art & Cosmology	3 L Andean Textile Art & Cosmology
Sa, 25	Departure or Extension Program	

## COURSE CONTENTS

### ANDEAN TEXTILE ART & WEAVING

Andean weaving done on back strap loom applying pick-up technique (*pallay*) is one of the most popular procedures practiced by the Andean weavers. This module's approach consists in getting trained in the weaving technique, from a simple panel (*pampa*), on to lineal combinations (*lista, t'ullu/patapata*), step by step to the figurative geometrical compositions:

- Learning how to twist the threads (*k'antiy*), using the drop spindle, is essential for the weaving process.
- Training in the handling of the loom's tools: *Khallwa* and *wich'una*.
- Preparation of the looms and their variations, according to combinations of icons, as well as the preparation and incorporation of *Illawa* (heddle) and *mini* (Weft thread).
- Training in the handling of the *mini* and *illawa*.
- Training in the pick-up technique (*pallay*).

### ANDEAN TEXTILE ART & COSMOLOGY

Your works will be based on models used by the Andeans, to understand and develop their textiles, such as design patterns, with shapes and structures based on laws and principles of nature and the cosmos. You will learn how to apply:

- The logic of forms and structures
- Concept of color combinations and symmetries from Andean perspective
- Icons, symbols and signs as part of design and aesthetic

The item/s to weave will be chosen in coordination with your teacher.

### NATURAL DYING WORKSHOP

Flowers, leaves, roots, cactus fleas (Cochineal) and minerals, in the Andes, the art of dyeing is part of an ancestral tradition. You will learn about the preparation and mixtures of the different natural ingredients, as well as about the dyeing of threads and techniques used to fix colors.

### SEMIOLOGY OF THE ANDEAN TEXTILES

Historically speaking, we know that textiles served as key information transmission documents. Today, apart from their functional use, the diversity of pieces still remains an informative depository paradigm, in such a way that, to get dressed in a piece of woven fabric, is like "wrapping" oneself up in a social skin of images and icons with complex meaning. Semiology will permit us to get submerged in the world of the iconography and signs:

- **Textile art as an information panel:** As a matter of fact, decoding the iconography, we will see that fabrics convey complex information about social memories, such as cosmology, astronomy, religion, myths and history.
- **Textile clothing, as a heritage from the divinities and ancestors:** The ethnographic information and analysis of mythic cycles will show us the conception of the 'costume, dress or clothing', from the indigenous perspective.

- **Rites, offerings, divinities and animism:** Woven fabrics play a very important role in religious practices, and possess a sacral category, in addition of being animated entities. Likewise, we'll take a look at their relationship with agriculture, the growing of plants and their function as connectors, between the world of the living and that of the ancestors.
- **Conception of time, whether linear, circular or cyclical:** The Master Weavers inlay icons in their works that illustrate concepts of time and eschatology (*Pachakuti* or Cosmic Cataclysm).

## PRE-COLUMBIAN TEXTILE ART WORKSHOPS

The Pre-Columbian culture's art impresses through the aesthetic beauty of its abstractions, which stand out for their elegance and pulsating vibration. In our workshops we'll see that the pre-columbian textiles were true visual bibles that displayed a whole doctrine which was simultaneously an offering and an appraisal based on beauty. The tunics were used as ceremonial garments as much for life, as for death, and the Priests wore an ideological cosmos on their shoulders. The abstraction process developed in a highly marked way, giving an interesting focus on their artistic concepts. Sketch and develop of own textile designs under Andean cosmology.

## ANDEAN MYTHOLOGY

Myths are powerful vehicle of storing and transmitting knowledge from generation to generation. Through analysis of mythic cycles you will discover:

- How myths explain the role, function and status of the textiles in the Andean society
- The representation of mythic discourses by group of dancers at the Mamacha Carmen celebration: Andean eschatology (*pachakuti*), concepts of liminality in time and space, correspondence and relationality of diverse realities. The costumes and masks language and transmission.
- Cosmology through myths: Parallel worlds, laws and order of nature and cosmos from Andean perspective

## TRADITIONAL DANCES, CHOREOGRAPHY AND THEIR SYMBOLISM

The Andean people fuse historical facts with symbols and codes through complex choreographies, manifesting that history is part of the Cosmos, and that every deed and character has a place in it. History is not a transitory past, but rather, a fundamental part of the present, and the Andeans represent it through ritual enactments in their ornate celebrations. Through dance they enact the Incas under the Spanish Crown, the war between Peru and Chile, the black men and women's slavery, the abusive landowners' time period, diseases and death in the coca plantations, the lawyers and civil servants' corruption, mythical beings from the world beyond this one, and mythological events.

### Schedule:

**Morning: 8.15 – 12.00**

**Afternoon: 13.30 – 16.20**

## MAMACHA CARMEN CELEBRATION

The pompous and colorful celebration of Mamacha Carmen lasts 5 days. In total, 21 masked dance groups accompanied by musicians honor the Mamacha performing, reviving and updating mythologies and history Peru's. At the cemetery, the deceased dancers are invoked integrating on this way the world of the ancestors. Catholic – indigenous syncretism but also a parallel world of mystic and incredible festive joy. As we participate and analyze this unique and impressive celebration, you will gain an insight into the Andean soul.

### Excursions and extension programs:

- Visit to the archeological sites in Cusco, Sacred Valley and Machu Picchu
- Living and weaving in a traditional community
- Tour Lake Titicaca
- Tour Rain forest