



News Release

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Mayan Textiles on Display at Century Through Oct 19

White Bear Lake artist and photographer Richard Nelson has his lifelong collection of Mayan textiles from the Guatemalan highlands on display in the Century College art gallery/theatre lobby area through Oct. 19.

Nelson's exhibit highlights the Mayan people who continue to wear their traditional dress with pride. The intricate textile patterns of the garments communicate history, religion, village and philosophy of life.

Guatemala is one of the few places on earth where traditional textile arts from ancient cultures survive.

Nelson's photography records the Mayan landscape, markets, indigenous people and the step-by-step weaving process. The goal of the exhibit is to present Mayan weaving as a living art form and the strongest visual signal of ethnic identity for the enduring Mayan culture.

Nelson's passion for woven textiles began in 1973 while studying in Tlaxiaco, Mexico. The experience changed his life and documenting the ancient ruins, architecture and indigenous cultures became his artistic focus.

Nelson is a lifelong White Bear Lake resident and holds a design degree from the University of Minnesota. His collection has been displayed at the University of Minnesota Duluth Tweed Museum, the University of Minnesota Goldstein Museum of Design and the Minneapolis Institute of Art.