

Gigi's 2017 Trip to Peru



Textiles

Tinkuy



At the Tinkuy, which is an International Fiber Conference there were weavers from all over the world. Sitting on a stool this weaver from Guatamala is showing local weavers her style. The two

spectators in the white felt hats with red bands are from Patabamba.



How You Dress Gives You Away

What hat you wear, how your skirt is decorated, the weaving tied to your back tell a story. Every part of a person's attire can be read. Are you married? What community did you come from? How old are you? Are you a good spinner and weaver? What other arts do you know? What you wear and how you wear it answers all of these questions.



Girls from Santo Tomas

They love to dress up in fancy clothes they make for themselves. The technique to decorate their skirts and hats is "reverse applique".





The ladies above are from Chinchero. Their favorite colors to weave are red from cochineal and blue from indigo.

The group of men and women (below) are from Pitumarca. Notice how similar, and at the same time different their hats are. Can you count the many ways they are the same? Can you count the many ways they are different?





These ladies are from Acopia. They are wearing their best clothing and hats. Their everyday hats of brown with no adornment. Can you tell what is in their backpacks?





We can tell the woman on the left wearing the hat with the gold trim is from Sallac and is married by her hat and her shawl. She is watching the weaver to learn new things.

The Tinkuy was about sharing textile art information. Weaving was the most talked about and demonstrated subject.

Wow, what do you think of the hat to the right? I don't know where that person comes from.



But the brown hat the weaver on the left is wearing and what she is weaving lets us know she is from Mahuaypampa.



These weavers from Mahauypampa are waiting to join the parade to the Tinkuy.

To the right are weavers from the Navajo Nation in the United States.





The young men above are from Pitumarco. They are already expert spinners, weavers and knitters.

The man below is from Chinchero. You can tell by his long hat.





The rug above is done with cut-pile weaving. The technique is exactly how the Turkish rugs in Europe are made. I was surprised to see it being used Peru. But they did not copy the technique from the Turkish. They developed it on their own, equally long ago.

The scarf on the left was woven by someone from Sicuani. It was the finest weaving I saw.





The Tinkuy was on the east side of the mountains called the Andes. All of the weavers we visited live in the Andes. But the west coast of Peru is very much like California, dry and hot. This family brought what they made out of the cotton they grew in the warm weather.

Dyeing and Weaving at Chinchero



It was a group effort to dye all of this yarn. We all worked together to prepare the dye stuff, heat the water, keep the flames going to heat the water, stir the dye pots and clean the freshly dyed yarn. We made 8 beautiful colors that day.





This is the dye stuff we used to make all our wonderful colors. Cochineal (reds and corals), indigo (blues), alum, qollpa (greens), q'olle (yellows and oranges), chaphi (peach), chilka (greens), k'uchu (turquoise).





This Chinchero weaver is warping her loom with her baby on her back. Was this baby in one of the backpacks at the Tinkuy?

Accha Alta, Ollantaytambo and the Vicuña





The three ladies pictured with Gigi (above) spun, wove and sewed this blanket together. But to get the blanket finished before Gigi left, the whole community got together to help finish it.

Why did they all work so hard? Because this was worth three months pay for each of them. You will see the blanket when you visit Gigi.



Ollantaytambo and the Vicuña



The vicuña is a small camel type animal that lives in the wild. They have not been able to be kept even in zoos for any length of time. This is a young boy vicuña who lost his mother and herd. As soon as he is big enough he will be returned to a new herd. We were very lucky to see him.

This vicuña was tied at the hacienda (ranch house) we stayed in one night. He would kick and bite if you got too close.

The vicuña is the undomesticated form of the Alpaca. Their fur is the second most expensive animal fur in the world.

In Peru you have to be licensed to own the fur or the yarn made from



from their cousins the vicuña. We get fiber from the alpacas too.

the fur. But if you have a license you can protect a herd and shear the animals every few years. You can make garments and sell the finished product.

There are two alpacas in the picture with the ladies on the right. They look very different





The llamas above don't usually live at Machu Picchu. They are from much higher elevations. These two were brought in for tourists to see. Their wool is not as soft as vicuña or alpaca so the people of Peru make rope out of it.

And the viscacha below looks like a very large chinchilla! They were grazing on the grass everywhere in Machu Picchu. But we do not collect their fur.



Chahuaytire

This woman from Chahuaytire (chi wir tiri) taught me how to weave a round band. Here weaving skills were among the best. She is married and has a daughter about three-years-old. The orange on her hat lets you know she is married.

This little girl would not be wearing the type of hat the adult women to.

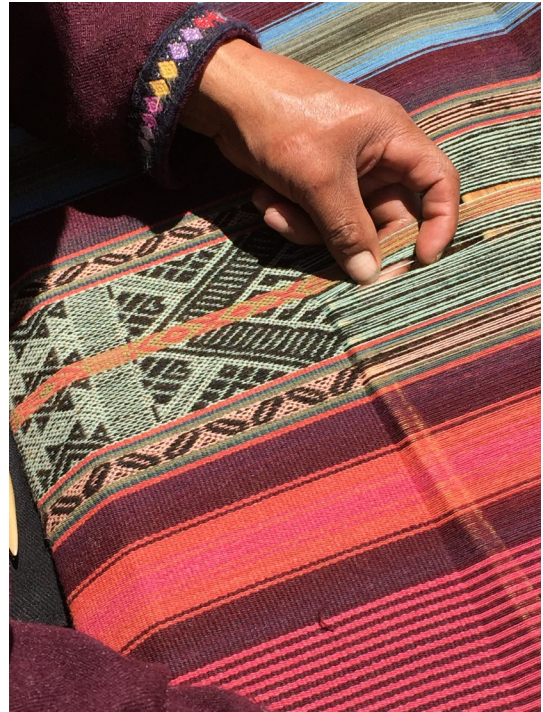


She would wear a knitted hat like the boys do.

Already she is helping warp a loom.

In Chahuaytire both the men and women weave. The men are also expert knitters and knit all the hats for the men, young boys and girls.





Look at all the colors the woman is weaving with. The yarn is alpaca and was dyed with natural dyes gathered from nature or grown in the garden.

Already this little girl is learning to spin with her mom.



Santa Cruz de Sallac



The weavers of Sallac are the only community that still dyes the ikat pattern you see in the weaving above. Other communities did this type of dyeing at one time but it has been lost from their community.



You can see this weaver has a hat similar to those of Chahuaytire but she is from Sallac. The trim on the bottom of her skirts says so. Also, she is weaving with ikat dyed warp.

The warp below is very, very advanced as there are so many colors in it. Gigi will weave that warp into a band.



Pitumarca

Pitumarca uses some of the oldest techniques of all the weavers in the Sacred Valley.

Look at all the color changes in the weaving this weaver is holding up.



The little boy is working on his braiding. In a few years he will be able to braid the sling shots like the ones in the pictures.





These Pitumarca weavers are preparing to weave a “discontinuous” warp. They are the only community that does this type of weaving.

The men in this community weave using tapestry techniques. They weave in animals and birds.



It is married men who wear hats that are very long. Young men wear hats that are not so long.





For Ellie

Christmas 2017

With Love from Gigi

