



*Annual
Report
2025*

TEXTILE SOCIETY *of* AMERICA

ABOUT TSA

Founded in 1987, the Textile Society of America is a United States 501(c)3 nonprofit that provides an international forum for the exchange and dissemination of textile knowledge from artistic, cultural, economic, historic, political, social, scientific, and technical perspectives. Our 1,000 members worldwide include curators and conservators, scholars and educators, artists, designers, makers, conservators, scientists, collectors, and others interested in fiber and textiles. TSA is governed by an international Board of Directors.

MISSION AND VISION

Building a foundation of anti-racism and a culture of care, the mission of the Textile Society of America is to foster an international collective community—diverse, equitable, inclusive and accessible—for the exchange and dissemination of knowledges and experiences about textiles worldwide.

The Textile Society of America is an international organization committed to reflecting the global diversity of textiles and their makers. We strive to build inclusive leadership, programming, and membership that embrace a wide range of histories, identities, and perspectives. To ensure our future relevance and impact, we welcome those historically underrepresented in the cultural sector and textile discourse. We aim to create a truly inclusive environment across our events, publications, and partnerships and to promote dialogue in multiple languages and worldviews.

Image: Nneka Kai standing in front of the *Nehan: Death of the Buddha* (涅槃圖), late 17th-early 18th century. Japan. Hanging scroll; ink, colors, gold on silk; painted image: 351.8 x 250.6 cm (138½ x 98% in.); full scroll: 461.7 x 270.1 cm (1814x 106% in.). The Art Institute of Chicago, Martin A. Ryerson Collection, 1921.161. during Textiles Close Up at the Art Institute of Chicago. Photo courtesy of TSA.





2025 END OF YEAR LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I sit down to write this year-end message, I find myself reflecting not just on numbers, but on the human energy those numbers represent. The data tells a powerful story of a community that didn't just grow, but deepened its connections and expanded its reach.

A scholar recently wrote that TSA is more than a place for learning; it is a community “where people genuinely cared about helping each other grow.” That sentiment is the heartbeat of our work. It is what transforms statistics into meaning.

This year, your support fueled that community in tangible ways. Our global community now stands 875 strong, welcoming 175 new members. The reach of our shared knowledge extended through publications, with 26 new articles in TSA News and our 2024 Symposium Proceedings surpassing 6,500 downloads. We distributed over \$2,000 in direct support through three grants and awards. Our programs, from Philadelphia conversations to online presentations showcasing fieldwork in Chiapas, fostered dialogue among 274 attendees spanning 15 countries. Beyond events, we shared knowledge widely, with our newsletter reaching over 2,700 inboxes and key social posts engaging over 38,000 people.

Each of these numbers is a person. A connection made. A research barrier crossed. A tradition preserved.

Image: *Washington's Headquarters Flag*. Standard. United States of America, 1777-1783. Silk, Linen. Museum of the American Revolution. Conserved with Funds Provided by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and its Color Guard. 2003.00.0662. Photo by TSA.



2025 END OF YEAR LETTER CONTINUED

As TSA looks ahead, this foundation enables our boldest steps. In 2026, we will bridge coasts and disciplines with hybrid Colloquia in Long Beach and Minneapolis, and bring our Textiles Close Up programs to new communities in Syracuse and Ithaca, creating more spaces for the exchange that fuels our field. This work continues only with your partnership. Your year-end gift is an investment in the textile field, in its people, its conversations, and its future.

With gratitude,



Ashley Occhino
Executive Director
Textile Society of America

P.S. Thank you for being the reason TSA thrives.
You make this vibrant community possible.

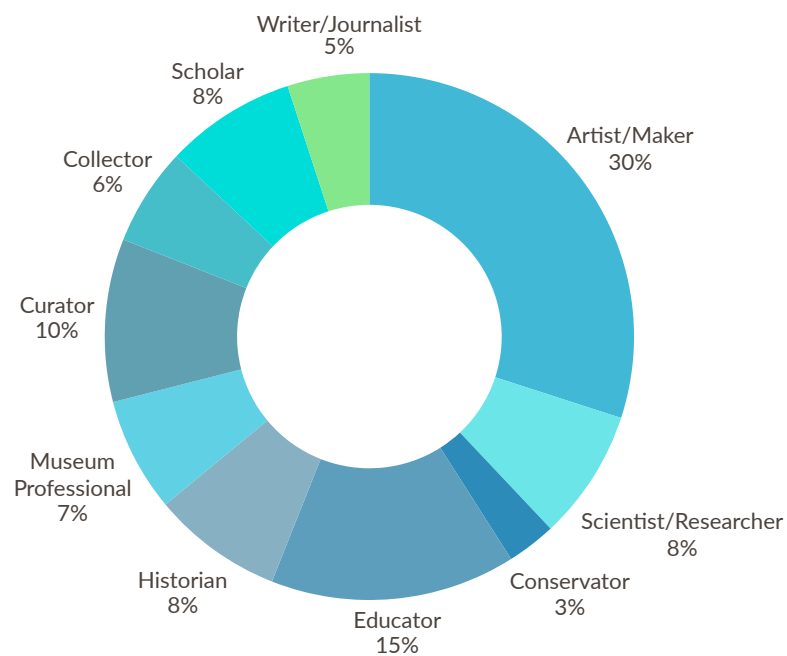
Image: Do Ho Suh. artist box contents for *Paratrooper II*, 2005.
Monofilament, resin, nylon, poly organza, stainless steel armature.
Collection of The Fabric Workshop and Museum. Photo credit: Carlos Avendaño. Courtesy of The Fabric Workshop and Museum.

TSA MEMBERSHIP

TSA's worldwide membership include museum curators, teachers, historians, artists, students, dealers, and collectors.

MEMBERS AT A GLANCE

TSA has 875 members in 60 countries, 80% of whom are in the U.S. In 2025, 175 new members joined, reflecting a highly interdisciplinary field that includes makers, historians, scientists, educators, and technologists. This diversity greatly influences TSA's work, encompassing a range of learners and professionals from emerging talent to established practitioners.

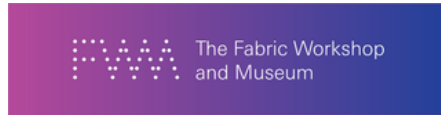


This graph shows the results of TSA's 2025 Members Survey, noting that Many self-identified with as having multiple roles and titles.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY & LISTENING SESSIONS

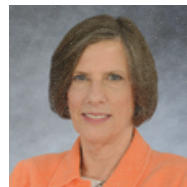
In March, TSA launched a Membership Survey as part of a broader effort to strengthen and expand a resilient, inclusive textile community. Grounded in equity, sustainability, and adaptability, this outreach invited members to help shape future programming. Survey findings informed a series of Member Listening Sessions with the Executive Director. Members expressed a clear need for increased financial support, including travel, project, and research grants. They also called for expanded online resources such as digital libraries and recorded lectures, along with more hybrid and virtual programming to ensure flexibility and access. Many voiced interest in local meetups to deepen regional connections and strengthen community engagement. Respondents emphasized the importance of reducing cost and accessibility barriers to re-engage non-members, enhancing mentorship and informal networking opportunities, and advancing inclusive practices through thoughtful accommodations and broader global representation.

TEXTILES CLOSE UP



REVOLUTIONARY THREADS

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

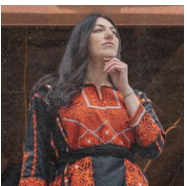
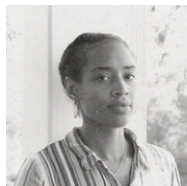


Adebunmi Gbadebo
Christina Roberts
Katie Parry
James Taub
Virginia Whelan

On July 23rd, TSA hosted its first in-person Textiles Close Up since 2019, featuring a guided tour of the 'Banners of Liberty: An Exhibition of Original Revolutionary War Flags' led by Textile Conservator Virginia Whelan and Associate Curator Jim Taub. Attendees explored the historical significance of Revolutionary War flags, their design evolution, and construction techniques, culminating in a visit to George Washington's tent, 'The First Oval Office.' The experience continued at The Fabric Workshop and Museum (FWM) with the 'Soft/Cover' exhibition, examining FWM's Artist Boxes, and concluded with a studio visit to observe current artists-in-residence Adebunmi Gbadebo.

ON LOSS AND ABSENCE

Chicago, Illinois



Nneka Kai
Wafa Ghnaim
Anne Wilson
L Vinebaum
Isaac Facio
Leslie M. Wilson

On November 16th & 17th, TSA returned to Chicago to showcase the exhibition "On Loss and Absence: Textiles of Mourning and Survival" at the Art Institute. Featuring over 100 works from various cultures and eras, the exhibition explores how textiles help communities cope with grief and honor the departed. Central themes include Death and Mourning, Transition of Realms, Care and Repair, and Resistance and Survival. Highlights included a curator-led tour with Curators Isaac Facio, L Vinebaum, Nneka Kai, and Anne Wilson; a gallery performance by Nneka Kai; an artist talk with Kai, Dr. Leslie M. Wilson, and Wafa Ghnaim, discussing textiles as cultural vessels; and a visit to the Textiles Resource Center (TRC).

SPECIAL PROGRAMS



WOVEN FROM NATURE: FILM SCREENING & CONVERSATION



Deandra Eubanks
Lauren Baccus
Mahdiyyah Muhammad
Teju Adisa-Farrar

TSA in collaboration with the Black Fiber & Textile Network (bftn) hosted a virtual conversation on November 9th honoring Black fiber heritage, artistry, and sustainable practice. The special event featured a screening of *Woven From Nature*, a short documentary film produced by bftn. *Woven From Nature* offers an intimate look at the stories and practices of Black fiber producers, natural dyers, and textile artists who work at the intersection of craft, community, and climate justice. The film celebrates ancestral knowledge, earth-based production, and collective healing, centering sustainability, environmental justice, and cultural memory.

DOCUMENTING DYEING KNOWLEDGE: COLOR, MEMORY, AND THE LAST INDIGO DYER OF SAN CRISTÓBAL DE LAS CASAS



Karla Faro Ruiz
Katarin María Laruelle Aránguiz

As part of the annual philanthropy day, Giving Tuesday, TSA hosted a unique virtual event on December 2nd featuring Katarin María Laruelle Aránguiz, a recipient of a Research Travel Grant. The program showcased Laruelle Aránguiz's documentary film and her fieldwork in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. Her research utilizes filmed oral histories and technical demonstrations to critically document the indigo-dyeing expertise of master artisan Francisco Álvarez Montoya. This work stands as a crucial intervention against globalized production and the erosion of ancestral techniques due to synthetic dyes. Developed in collaboration with the Centro de Textiles del Mundo Maya A.C., the project makes a meaningful contribution to the ethnography of textile traditions. Laruelle Aránguiz engaged in a conversation with Karla Faro Ruiz from the Centro de Textiles del Mundo Maya A.C., providing a collaborative viewpoint on the project's methodology and its significance for community-oriented preservation.

PUBLICATIONS

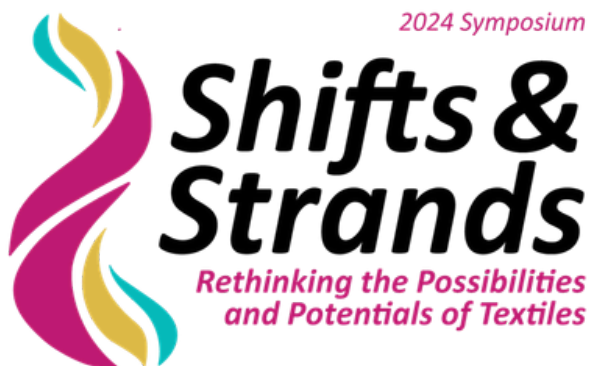
Textile Society of America Awards were established to celebrate excellence in the textile field. Scholarships provide financial support to participate in TSA programs

THE PROCEEDINGS

Dr. Helen Trejo | Editor



As Editor, Helen overaw the online publication of the 2024 Symposium Proceedings, ensuring that the research and discussions from the Symposium are accessible to a global audience. The Proceedings include papers, panel transcripts, and other scholarly contributions, published as open-access documents through TSA's partnership with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Digital Commons. As of December 2025, TSA's Proceedings have reached an international readership with over 1.9 million downloads.



3RD SPECIAL ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL OF TEXTILE DESIGN, RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Rajesh Kumar | Editor



In this role, Rajesh will oversee the selection, peer review, and editorial process for a curated collection of outstanding papers presented at the 2024 TSA Symposium. The special issue, part of TSA's ongoing collaboration with the Journal of Textile Design Research and Practice, highlights groundbreaking research in textile design, history, and material culture, with a strong focus on emerging scholars and historically underrepresented perspectives. The Journal of Textile Design Research and Practice, published by Taylor & Francis, provides a rigorous platform for scholarly discourse on textile innovation, practice, and theory.

TSA NEWSLETTER

Since 1989, the TSA has been publishing our newsletter. In 2019, we transitioned from the semiannual PDF format to TSA News, a new digital content format available on the TSA website, which launched in spring 2020. Consequently, the Fall 2019 Newsletter marked the last issue in the PDF format. In 2025, the TSA community had not only expanded but also strengthened its connections and outreach efforts. We released our first digital newsletter in Spring 2025, marking the first issue since 2020. During the interval from 2020 to 2025, articles were published individually in a blog-style format. This newsletter aims to pave the way for the eventual return of a physical newsletter as a member benefit.

The Fall 2025 newsletter was released on November 3, 2025. Many articles within this issue are accessible only to logged-in members. It featured five engaging articles, a letter from Ashley, member news, and a curated book list.

We are thrilled to announce our plans for a physical newsletter in Fall 2026. We are excited about the possibilities it presents. The new “Sustaining” Membership level, will receive a printed copy of the newsletter, while all members will continue to receive a digital version.

2025 EDITORS

Kris Cnossen
Jennifer Pellman
Annabelle Camp
Sara Rosenthal

REACH AND IMPACT

26 member submitted articles published
5,280 newsletter subscribers worldwide
47,600 website visitors from 160 countries

2025 CONTRIBUTORS

Ai Kijima
Katarin María Laruelle Aránguiz
A. Zarinah Nuri
Harikleia Sirmans
Alessandra Massa
Piotr Wesolowski
Judy Frater
Alejandra Ortíz de Zevallos Rodrigo
Shannon Welsh
Marcelo Martins
Jennifer Henbest-Calvillo
Nadia Albertini
Ashley Occhino
Suzanna James
Hannah Brancato
Isabel Monseau
Sarah Molina
Tim Abel
Almas Ali
Hannah Brancato
Maria Ida De Ioanni
Celine Khawam
Markia Liapi
Abbie Miller
Isabel Monseau
Brielle Pizzala

TSA has also reinstated Member Mondays, a bimonthly initiative that highlights members' work and contributions through interviews and images shared on TSA News and social media.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

TEXTILE TRAVEL RESEARCH GRANT

Dr. Nisaphi Lyndem



Dr. Lyndem's exploration of historical Naga textiles involves field visits to Nagaland, where she engaged with local artisans, examine heirloom textiles, and tours museums, handloom departments, and cultural associations. Her upcoming book on Naga textiles aims to reclaim displaced heritage and elevate Indigenous narratives within the context of global textile history.

Katarin María Laruelle Aránguiz



This project focuses on Don Francisco Álvarez Montoya, the last practitioner of a 500-year-old indigo dyeing tradition in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Mexico. In partnership with the Centro de Textiles del Mundo Maya, this initiative is part of Aránguiz PhD thesis on the impact of socioeconomic networks on Mesoamerican knowledge and practices related to natural dyes.

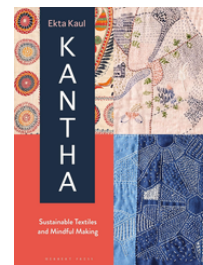
Thanks to the generosity of Elena Phipps, TSA President 2012-2014, and Alan Finkel.

THE R. L. SHEP MEMORIAL BOOK AWARD

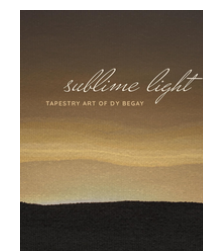


The Royal Inca Tunic: A Biography of an Andean Masterpiece, by Andrew James Hamilton, (Princeton University Press, 2024).

JUDGES' SHORTLIST OF BOOKS FOR THE R. L. SHEP MEMORIAL BOOK AWARD



Kantha: Sustainable Textiles and Mindful Making, by Ekta Kaul, (Herbert Press: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2024).



Sublime Light: Tapestry Art of DY Begay, edited by Cécile R. Ganteaume and Jennifer McLerran, (The National Museum of the American Indian, Smithsonian Institution, 2024).

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Florina Capistrano-Baker (Chair)
Dr. Julia Hendon
Dr. Kaja McGowan

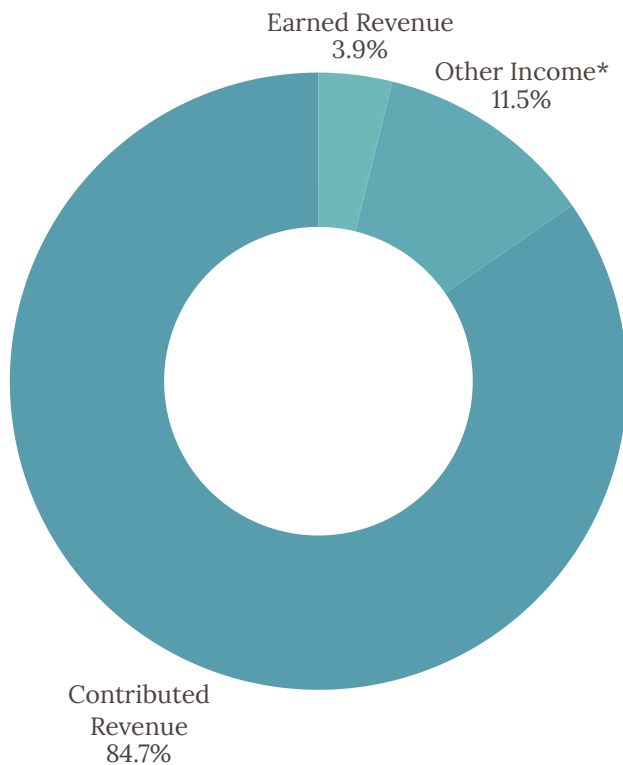
The R. L. Shep Memorial Book Award is given annually to the publication judged to be the best book of the year in the field of global cultural heritage textile studies. The award consists of a monetary award funded by an endowment established by R. L. Shep in 2000.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Membership remains vital to our work, and investment income continues to bolster stability, enabling TSA to plan, grow, and deepen its impact as the textile field's indispensable cross sector hub.

REVENUE PERCENTAGE BY SOURCE

In 2025, TSA generated a total income of \$200,035
*interest and dividends



EXPENSES & INCOME

Total expenses for the year were \$186,406, resulting in a net income of \$13,629.

This positive result follows a planned investment year in 2024 and demonstrates TSA's prudent use of reserves to fund a deliberate transition.

Membership and investment income remain vital to our stability, and TSA enters 2026 with a strengthened financial position and a clear trajectory toward operational breakeven as programs relaunch under new leadership.



Image: Christina Roberts from the Fabric Museum and Workshop holds work study of *Tar Beach II* quilt from Faith Ringgold's archive box at the FMW during Textiles Close Up program. Photo by TSA.

IN MEMORIAL

Lotus Stack, TSA Founding President



When Lotus Stack joined the small group of visionaries who founded the Textile Society of America on April 3, 1987, she helped ignite a force for connection and scholarship that has thrived for decades. We reflect with immense gratitude on her life and foundational contributions, as we share the news of her peaceful passing at her home in Minneapolis on November 6.

From that first Advisory Board meeting in 1987 through her service on the inaugural Board of Directors (1988-1990), Lotus helped transform a shared conviction into a lasting organization. With characteristic dedication, she volunteered to host TSA's first symposium in Minneapolis in September 1988, an event whose success solidified the foundation for all that followed.

Her leadership was a steadying force for the young organization. She served as Vice President (1990-1992) and then as President (1992-1994), guiding TSA through its formative years. Her practical support was equally vital; for many years, she helped ensure the Society's operational stability. Lotus was deeply invested in the quality and reach of TSA's scholarship. She initiated early efforts to create a professional bibliography for the field, a project later realized through the work of Mary Mallia and The Textile Museum. She also served with distinction as Chair of the R.L. Shep Memorial Book Award and as a nominator for the Brandford/Elliott Award.

Lotus's influence remains active within TSA, most visibly through the Founding Presidents Award. Established in 2008 to honor her and her fellow founders—Peggy Gilfoy, Milton Sunday, Mattiebelle Gittinger, and Louise W. Mackie. This award, which supports excellence in textile studies at our symposia, stands as a direct tribute to her original vision: to create a platform for the finest new work and to foster connections across the global textile community. TSA is honored to be part of Lotus Stack's extraordinary legacy.

IN MEMORIAL

Dilys E. Blum: Pioneering Curator

Dilys E. Blum, a visionary in textiles, passed away on December 27, 2025. She served nearly four decades as the Senior Curator of Costume and Textiles at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, retiring as Curator Emeritus in June 2025. Blum was known for her impactful exhibitions, including "Art of the Zo" and "Off the Wall," which redefined textile arts. Her extensive curatorial legacy includes over forty exhibitions that broadened the understanding of textiles within art. A respected scholar and author, Blum's contributions will be profoundly missed by her family, colleagues, and friends worldwide.

Nancy F. Hall: Trailblazer

Nancy F. Hall, who passed away on December 21, 2024, was a pivotal leader in nonprofit finance and a cherished member of the textile community at TSA. A Harvard Business School graduate, she co-founded the Maryland Association of Nonprofit Organizations and taught at Johns Hopkins University for over 20 years, emphasizing integrity and management. Passionate about textile arts, she engaged in quilting, crochet, and knitting, reflecting her meticulous care in both her professional and personal pursuits. Our condolences go out to her family, colleagues, students, and friends.

Margo Mensing

Margo Mensing (1941–2024), a former TSA Board Member and renowned fiber artist, passed away on August 28, 2024, at 83. As a poet, educator, and interdisciplinary creator, she merged art, science, and storytelling, inspiring students at Skidmore College in her role as Professor of Fiber Arts. Her collaborative projects, like A Very Liquid Heaven, showcased her belief in the power of collective creativity.

Her legacy lives on in the exhibition Crux of the Matter at Skidmore's Schick Art Gallery, featuring her work alongside former student Sayward Schoonmaker. Margo is remembered for her curiosity, generosity, and significant impact on the fiber arts community.

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New York, USA/Chiricahua Apache Nation

Gabe Duggan

Director of Membership & Outreach

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Dr. Christine Checinska

Director-at-Large Membership & Outreach

London, England

Dr. Vandana Bhandari

Director of Awards & Scholarship

New Delhi, India

Kris Cnossen

Director of Communications

Michigan, USA

Image: Ava Roth. *Gold Honeycomb Ring with Flowers*. Encaustic, Japanese paper, gold leaf, embroidery floss, natural honeycomb, local Ontario maple frame. 17.5"x17.5". Courtesy of the artist.



DONORS, FUNDERS, & PARTNERS

Global Dialogue. Textile Knowledge. Shared Heritage.

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Nao Saito

Nathalie Aubin

Nina Olson

Norma Schafer

Patricia Carroll-Mathes

Anonymous

Paula Stebbins Becker

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Ruth Katzenstein Souza

Anonymous

Sabrina Karklins

Anonymous

Sarah Stevens

Sherrl Smith

Snejana Stoyanova

Susan C Maresco

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Suzanne P MacAulay

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Journal of Textile Design

Research and Practice

Cover image: Adebunmi Gbadebo. *Production*. 2020. 7'x 3' ft. Black hair, cotton. pigment, archival images. Courtesy of the artist.

Back cover image: Master artisan Francisco Álvarez Montoya. Courtesy of Katarin María Laruelle Aránguiz, photo by Karla Faro Ruiz of the Centro de Textiles del Mundo Maya A.C.

TEXTILE SOCIETY *of* AMERICA

Textile Society of America
PO Box 177
Millersville, MD 21108

A photograph of a man with a white tank top and a white cap, working with large blue barrels in an outdoor setting. He is leaning over a barrel, and there are other barrels and plants in the background. The scene appears to be a textile processing or dyeing area.

THANK YOU!

Consider becoming a member today and help us fulfill our mission to provide greater access to the exchange and dissemination of textile knowledge.

Visit textilesocietyofamerica.org to learn more about the perks of becoming a member and to see previews of our current and upcoming programs.