

Peruvian-American Conservation Collaboration





The Ancient Peruvian Textiles Workshop was created by Camille Myers Breeze in 2002 to foster collaboration between Peruvian archaeologists and North American conservators. It ran every January from 2004-2010.



Our project partner is Rommel Angeles Falcon, director of the Huaca Malena Museum, located 100 km south of the capitol city of Lima, Peru.



After hearing Rommel speak in 2002 about his Adopt-a-Textile program that was uniting people behind the urgent need to rescue and preserve textiles from Huaca Malena, Camille volunteered to help Rommel and student Gabriel Sialer on the conservation of a mummy bundle.



The ceremonial complex of Huaca Malena functioned as an administrative and religious center from 400–500 C.E. Between 700 and 1100 C.E. the upper platform was used by the provincial Wari culture as a cemetery.



In the 1980s the site was heavily plundered by looters searching for objects to sell on the black market. Still open to visitors, the site is now monitored by the community.



More than three thousand recovered artifacts and mummy bundles are housed in the Municipal Museum of Huaca Malena, which opened in 2001.



In addition to visiting Huaca Malena, students who participate in the Ancient Peruvian Textiles workshop travel to other parts of Peru to study the impact of textiles on ancient cultures.



The classroom portion of the workshop begins with a stitching lesson. Each student becomes proficient at conservation stitching before being assigned a textile.



The true collaboration comes when Peruvians and non-Peruvians apply their shared knowledge to the preservation of fragile museum objects, such as these mummified heads.





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- Learn the language
- Become familiar with the country or area





- Stay healthy
- Be resilient



- Know your subject
- Keep it interesting





- Can see students grow
- Benefits the team members personally and professionally
- Learning goes both ways



- Don't overextend by accepting too many students

(more students = more money but more stress)

- Know students' limitations
- Be patient with cultural differences





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Cinco Años de Colaboración en Conservación: Huaca Malena & Museum Textile Services, USA

Huaca Malena es un complejo ceremonial pre-inca ubicado en el pueblo costero de Capilla de Asia. Durante el periodo de los desarrollos regionales entre los años 400 al 500 DC funcionó como centro administrativo y religioso. Entre los años 700 y 1100 DC la plataforma superior fue utilizada como un cementerio de la cultura Wari.

Para los antiguos peruanos los textiles jugaron un rol fundamental en la dispersión de ideas políticas y religiosas. No solo usaron los textiles para abrigar el cuerpo en la vida y en la muerte sino también para marcar diferencias sociales y tributarias. Las técnicas de tejer a mano conocidas en todo el mundo no fueron ajenas a los antiguos peruanos y esto nos muestra su ingenio y capacidad creativa.

Es en este legado que los textiles han unido a peruanos y norteamericanos a trabajar en el Museo Municipal de Huaca Malena desde el 2004. Durante los últimos cinco años hemos trabajado en la conservación de más que cuarenta textiles, fardos y momificados con la participación de nuestros cuarenta y

...nuestros descubrimientos a todos para que podamos aprender de los textiles

Five Years of Conservation Collaboration: Huaca Malena & Museum Textile Services, USA

Huaca Malena is a pre-Inca ceremonial complex. During the period of regional development, 400-500 A.D., it functioned as an administrative and religious center. Between 700 and 1100 A.D., the upper platform was used by the Wari culture.

To the ancient Peruvians, textiles played a fundamental role in the dispersion of political and religious ideas. Not only did they use textiles to clothe the body, both in life and in death, but also for functions such as paying taxes. Every textile technique known anywhere in the world was also known to the ancient Peruvians, which illustrates their ingenuity.

It is this unique textile legacy that has united Peruvians and North Americans to collaborate in the Municipal Museum of Huaca Malena since 2004. During the last five years we have worked on the conservation of more than forty textiles, bundles and mummies with the participation of our forty and

