

RABÍN AJAW

INDIGENOUS CEREMONIAL DRESS OF GUATEMALA

Photography by Juan Carlos Lemus-Dahinten

OAS | AMA F Street Photo Gallery
Organization of American States
1889 F Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

On view

January 9 - March 29, 2013
Mon - Fri | 9AM - 5PM

Opening Reception

Wednesday, January 9th at 6PM

AMA | Art Museum of the Americas of the OAS announces the opening of *Rabín Ajaw: Indigenous Ceremonial Dress of Guatemala*, an exhibition of photography by Guatemalan photographer Juan Carlos Lemus Dahinten, at its F Street Gallery. This exhibit is part of AMA's celebration of Guatemala as the host country of the OAS 2013 General Assembly.

The works presented in the exhibit examine the aesthetic of Guatemalan dress as a manifestation of cultural identity, and how modern styles influenced by global fashion and culture coexist with indigenous traditions, each representing a different region of the country.

A distinctly Guatemalan combination of colors, designs, and materials is worn mainly by women and the elderly, in rural villages where these traditions remain prominent. Ritual or ceremonial dress is worn by members of indigenous town councils, and often includes garments differentiating the wearers from the rest of the community. The attire is usually more elaborately decorated, representing authority and spiritual leadership.

The Rabín Ajaw is the only Mayan National Representative Pageant in Guatemala that has taken place for more than 40 years. Photographer Juan Carlos Lemus Dahinten is the official photographer for the pageant and here presents images captured during the event's 2011 edition. Participants wear ceremonial and festive dress, with additional non-everyday ornamentations such as indigenous necklaces that demonstrate the rich Mayan cultural heritage.

Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Ambassador Rodrigo Vielmann will share remarks during the opening reception, and Mr. Lemus Dahinten will offer attendees a colorful journey through Guatemalan's different regions that are represented in the exhibit.

