



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Wisconsin artist curates an exhibition of Mayan Hooked Rugs Mary Anne Wise is a textile artist who showed Mayan artisans how to hook.**

23MAY11: Panajachel, Guatemala

For more than 3 years, Mary Anne Wise has traveled to Guatemala to give rug hooking classes to women's Fair Trade artisan groups through Oxlajuj B'atz', a non-profit indigenous women's organization in Guatemala.

Indigenous weavers were immediately attracted to Ms. Wise's craft, because it entails only a modest outlay for hoops and hooks. Besides the low start up cost, the recommended materials are recycled fabrics. This benefits the women's groups, because they can construct rugs with anything from their own well worn and hand woven garments (*traje*) to used clothes selected for their colors or over-dyed for the purpose.

By expanding the Maya women's textile "vocabulary," Ms. Wise freed them from the one dimensionality of the loom. Their new craft gave them the ability to change tuft levels, colors and motifs freely so they can more easily restate traditional geometric themes in larger and more varied formats.

The Anderson Center of Red Wing MN, will present "Mary Anne Wise & Friends: The Art of the Hooked Rug" from 24SEP-23NOV11. Opening: 23SEP11

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TAGS: Hooked Rugs, Mayans, Minnesota, Anderson Center, Fair Trade, Mary Anne Wise, Oxlajuj B'atz'

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Oxlajuj B'atz' (Thirteen Threads) is a non-profit indigenous women's empowerment and non-formal education organization based in Guatemala since 2004. We are a project of Asociación Tejedoras Unidas - *Komon Ajkem* in Guatemala and our fiscal sponsor in the U.S. is the Maya Educational Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public foundation. [www.thirteenthreads.org](http://www.thirteenthreads.org)

If you are interested in more information about Mary Anne Wise or to book an interview please contact Kaylen Whitmore Cell: 612-281-7257 or email [kaylenw@hotmail.com](mailto:kaylenw@hotmail.com)