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Textiles from the Andes

Penelope Dransart, Helen Wolfe



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A beautifully illustrated book that explores the intricate patterns and vibrant colors in textiles of the Andes from Colombia to northern Chile

In the world of the ancient Andes, textiles were often the most valuable commodity people possessed far beyond gold and silver and they were a major medium for conveying critical cultural meaning. For us, they are works of unsurpassed art and craftsmanship, and one of the greatest resources for studying these great civilizations.

Textiles from the Andes features a wealth of rare and exquisite pieces, many of great iconographic and technical importance, ranging in date from the Paracas to the Inka and Colonial periods, 200 BC to the late 18th century AD. Examples of contemporary Andean textiles complement the early pieces and illustrate the continuation of weaving traditions in the Andes.

The introduction discusses briefly how ancient Andean textiles have survived in desert graves for up to 2,000 years, setting them in their chronological, cultural and environmental context. The authors then explain their importance in reflecting and often affecting the political and religious beliefs of these cultures. They also look at the evidence of who made them, how and why.

Shows each textile in full and through a series of detailed photographs, allowing design enthusiasts and experts alike to get close-up and find inspiration for their own work

Includes glossary of technical analysis for designers and textile practitioners of all kinds

Authoritative introduction by an expert in the field provides a context for appreciating and enjoying the superb and varied designs

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