

Silk, a Tender Caress between Lebanon and Mexico, exhibition at Zouk Mikaël

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The Embassy of Mexico in Lebanon, in collaboration with the Alfredo Harp Helu Foundation, the Municipality of Zouk Mikaël, and the Textile Museum of Oaxaca, launched a unique exhibition at the House of the Artisan under the title of *Silk, a Tender Caress between Lebanon and Mexico*. The exhibition of handmade fabrics from Lebanon and Mexico was opened on July 5, 2012, and will last until September 15, 2012.

This unique cultural activity aims at reviving and preserving the tradition Lebanese art of silk weaving and spinning gradually losing its cultural importance as the main identity of the Zouk area. Mexican cotton also plays prominent role in the exhibition, displaying a centuries-old Mexican art.



Mexican weaving exhibition at the House of the Artisan
at the Municipality of Zouk Mikaël.

H.E. Jorge Alvarez Fuentes, the Ambassador of Mexico in Lebanon, stressed on the importance of preserving the art of Nawl (Lebanese term, meaning craft of weaving), which is a characteristic of many Lebanese regions. The art of silk weaving has witnessed a decline due to numerous adverse conditions. Nonetheless, reviving this ancient tradition is a noble and important effort.



House of the Artisan at Zouk Mikaël Municipality.

Various public conferences and workshops have been organized in parallel to the exhibition and as part of the activities of the Textile Museum of Oaxaca, the Municipality of Zouk Mikaël, the Harp Helo Foundation, and the Embassy of Mexico in Lebanon. Mr. Antoine Salameh will give a conference on the history and techniques of the weaving crafts and Mr. Eric Chavez will conduct different interactive workshops about Mexican methods of weaving and dyeing. A workshop on the art of Nawl will also be offered.

In the words of Mr. Nouhad Naufal, the Mayor of Zouk Mikaël, “This exhibition honors the Nawl and the artisans from both countries.” These Tender Caresses contribute to a new consciousness, allowing both countries to become more resilient, just, and harmonious”.

Lebanese Emigration Research Center was proud to be part of this cultural dialogue of arts and handcrafts.