TRABAJO ARTESANAL DEL PAUCHE EN ZAPATOCA SANTANDER
EL PAUCHE

Se remonta al año de 1897 aproximadamente la iniciación del arte del pauche, con los esposos DEMETRIO CÓMEZ e ISMENIA QUIJANO, así como BARABARA, y CAMILA.

Era la época de la guerra de los mil días, cuando la necesidad de corchos para tapar las vasijas donde se cargaba el agua y las bebidas hizo a personas ingeniarse la posibilidad de reemplazar el corcho por el pauche, madera que se encontraba en la finca que ellos abitaban.

Después de los corchos y aprovechando la forma de la madera, su facilidad al cortarla y modelar figuras, fueron ellos y sus hijas ideando figuras en las que predominaban los pájaros trabajos estos que le dieron el apelativo de "Pájaras. Después fabricaban diferentes figuras como frutas, tabacos, troncos, orquídeas, matas de plátano, rosas y muchas otras cosas, no escapando a su laboriosidad los detalles de perfección en cada uno de ellos, que hacía sentir en las frutas y en las flores el aroma que los caracterizan.

Debido a la poca acojida que un principio recibieron los trabajos realizados, se creó un mito con estos trabajos, reservándose durante la mayor parte de su vida, el secreto de su trabajo, solo en los últimos días de vida de estas señoras, enseñaron su trazo a algunas personas que más tarde han continuado su tarea de perfeccionamiento y le han extendido, constituyéndose en una artesanía, que ha dado nombre a la ciudad de Zapotoca, obteniendo premios en las ferias artesanales del país y extranjeras donde la perfección de los trabajos ha llamado la atención.

El pauche es el corazón de un árbol llamado "Árboloco" y "Maximo", cuyo tamaño no excede de cuatro metros, de color blanco, que debe cortarse con algunas técnicas conocidas por los campesinos, como en la época de corte, los cambios de luna, etc, lo que contribuye a la mejor calidad de la madera y a la perfección de la madera ya tallada. Las pinturas empleadas van desde los colores vegetales, hasta los últimos productos químicos aparecidos recientemente, y su talla, perfección dependen exclusivamente de la capacidad y gusto artístico del artesano.

El pauche es ha constituido en la insignia de Zapotoca y ha recorrido con sus (bombonera) y allegados los rincones del munuo.
This catalogue represents the handycraft of a co-op in Zapotoca, Colombia. The co-op of Zapotoca is being assisted by SENA (Servicio Nacional de Aprendizaje), a Colombian governmental agency that is dedicated to offering technical and educational assistance to the public. Through the assistance of SENA these people have been able to organize into a co-op to strengthen their trade and pool their resources. Not having the experience, SENA provided consultants to assist in selling their crafts at the local fairs of other departments in Colombia. The results have been most favorable with the winning of awards indicating high sales.

The co-op has broadened its market through participation in international fairs and now is attempting to increase its exports. Although the co-op is somewhat new to this area, it understands the importance of quality and promptness, and is eager to please.

Zapotoca (pop 10,000) is located in the northern part of Colombia in the department of Santander and is some 5 hours away from Bucaramanga. Its craft is the carving of pauche, a balsa-wood-like material. Pauche is the heart of a tree called "axiloco" or "anime" that does not grow higher than 4 meters and is white in color. The pauche can only be cut a certain way and this ritual is known only to the "campesinos" (rural folk). Some 100 years ago only two elderly women knew the procedure of carving pauche, to the concern of the local father, who feared with the passing away of these women, this talent would be lost to Zapotoca. He requested them to teach a course. Fortunately they agreed.

The co-op was created to supplement the income of the families in the hope of upgrading their standard of living. The objective is to become independent of SENA's assistance and to increase their members, enabling more families to benefit in the process.

There are approximately 14 ladies in the co-op which is located in the mountains. They elect an executive board which controls all phases of the operation and receives assistance from SENA on pricing and locating markets.

The purpose of SENA is to act as an intermediary in finding and coordinating the buyers and the sellers. SENA receives no money for its services. All merchandise is shipped through Bucaramanga.
Ref: Z-01
Large Handcarved Fruit
A package of 10 typical Colombian fruits. They are beautifully carved and seem almost real. Any fruit can be carved to your design.
26cm.L x 16cm.W x 7cm.H per package
35 grams per package

Ref: Z-02
Handcarved Vegetables
A package of 10 typical Colombian vegetables. Have the same qualities as the fruit. Any vegetable can be carved to your design.
23cm.L x 15cm.W x 7cm.H package
35 grams per package

Ref: Z-03
Banana Bunch
A Banana Bunch with magnet attached so that it can be used to hold notes on any metal surface. Perfect for the refrigerator door.
10cm.L x 2.5cm.W x 6cm.H
8.5 grams

Ref: Z-04
Stationary Bird
A colorful handcarved bird placed on a trunk stand. The bird can be colored to your preference.
9cm.L x 4cm.W x 8cm.H
4.5 grams

Ref: Z-05
Mobile Bird
A colorful handcarved bird placed on a movable perch with fruit and flowers. The bird can be colored to your preference.
15cm.L x 10cm.W x 14cm.H
10 grams

Ref: Z-06
Bird
A colorful handcarved bird in a natural setting with a nest of eggs and fruit. The bird can be colored to your preference.
13cm.L x 5cm.W x 15cm.H
20 grams

Ref: Z-07
Small Fruit
Same quality and design as the larger fruit (Z-01) but on a smaller scale. Comes 10 to a package.
12cm.L x 8cm.W x 3cm.H a package
12.5 grams a package

Ref: Z-08
Small Fruit with Magnets
Same quality as small fruit except with magnets. Perfect for metal surfaces. Comes 10 to a package.
12cm.L x 8cm.W x 3cm.H a package
20 grams a package

Ref: Z-09
Banana Tree
Authentic looking banana tree. Perfect for a paperweight or decoration.
8cm.L x 7cm.W x 18cm.H
100 grams

Ref: Z-10
Grapes
A bunch of purple grapes that look as if they were just picked off the vine.
5cm.L x 7cm.W x 15cm.H
12 grams
Ref: Z-11
Pipe and Cigar Paperweight
Authentic looking handcarved pipe and cigar located on a paperweight. Perfect for the office.
7cm.L x 5.5cm.W x 7cm.H
25 grams

Ref: Z-12
Basket of Food
Includes bread, meat, tortilla, eggs, and other typical Colombian food placed on a napkin in a basket.
18cm.L x 7cm.W x 7cm.H
25 grams

Ref: Z-13
Monkey
Handcarved monkey placed in a plastic container.
4cm.L x 3cm.W x 11cm.H
20 grams

Ref: BI-01
Coal
Pauche carved to look like burning coal. Nice decoration for any fireplace. 2 pieces to an order.
5cm. to 10cm.L x 1cm. to 2cm. Radius
20 grams

Ref: BI-02
Firewood
Pauche carved to look like burning firewood. Nice decoration for any fireplace. 4 pieces to an order.
30cm.L x 1cm. to 2cm. Radius
40 grams

Ref: BI-03
Cigarettes
Authentic looking burning cigarettes carved out of pauche.
5cm. to 10cm.L x 1cm. Radius
1 gram

Ref: BI-04
Pipe
Authentic looking pipe with burning tobacco carved out of pauche.
10cm. to 15 cm.L x 4cm.W x 4cm.H
3 grams

Ref: BG-01
Basket of Coffee Beans
Life-like red coffee beans placed in a basket. Perfect decoration for the home.
Area=48cm. x 11cm.H
40 grams

Ref: BG-02
Decorated Plate of Fruit
Pauche-carved fruit placed on a straw mat. Perfect wall hanging.
14cm.L x 6cm.H
20 grams

Ref: BG-03
Coffee Tree Branch with Beans
Authentic-looking branch with beans attached made of pauche.
38cm.L x 1cm.H
21 grams
Ref: Z-12
Basket of food

Ref: Z-01
Handcarved Large Fruit

Ref: Z-02
Handcarved vegetables
Ref: Z-04
Bird Stationary

Ref: Z-06
Bird

Ref: Z-03
Banana Bunch

Ref: Z-13
Monkey

Ref: Z-08
Small fruit Magnets
Ref: BG-01
Basket of Coffee Beans

Ref: BG-02
Decorated plate of fruit

Ref: BG-03
Coffee Tree Branch with beans
Ref: BI-01
Coal

Ref: BI-03
Cigarettes

Ref: BI-04
Pipes