



SECRETS of SPINNING, WEAVING, and KNITTING in the PERUVIAN HIGHLANDS by Nilda Callañaupa Alvarez & the Weavers of the Center for Traditional Textiles of Cusco. Thrums Books, 302 North Washington Avenue, Loveland, Colorado 80537. 2017. Softcover. 138 pages. \$24.95.

This book has the most beautiful and detailed photographs of techniques that I have ever seen in a volume of its kind. The pictures are magnificent and the number of color prints is astounding. Each section takes you through the process of spinning, weaving or knitting with step-by-step photos and instructions. If these detailed descriptions don't intrigue you, when you approach the end of the

book, there is a wonderful chapter detailing finishing techniques including borders, joins, seams, embroidery, tassels and pom-poms. As a bonus, you can learn how to make a sling-braid.

This book is a tribute to both the techniques of the Andes and the fiber artists that have participated in the Center for Traditional Studies of Cusco. I would say that this book serves as an anthropological study as well. It is a pleasure to see people taking such care to preserve the gorgeous traditions of their culture while surrounded by the push of modernization. I applaud author Nilda Alvarez for helping to make sure that the crafts that have been a long-standing tradition of the region are being carried on with the younger generations. The entire book is of value to anyone working with fiber. How such magnificent textiles are created with such simple tools will leave the reader truly amazed.

*Reviewed by Suanne Pasquarella
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