

Río Negro Memorial Textile

Weaver Profile

Ermelinda Uscap Lopez, 24

Ermelinda was born in the mountains outside the village of Chitucan in 1983. Her mother fled Chitucan after an Army raid in the village. After Ermelinda was born in hiding during their year in the mountains, the family traveled to Pacux in 1984, and soon returned to Chitucan when they could.

As a young girl, Ermelinda learned how to weave belts and huipils and worked picking melons and coffee to make a living. While in the fields, she met her husband, José Osorio Osorio, and then moved to Pacux.

Ermelinda's textile commemorates her mother-in-law, Maria del Rosario Osorio Chen, who left her fire burning and her tortilla masa unfinished the morning she was killed at Pak'oxom. Her husband, José, was one of the children taken to Pak'oxom. He witnessed his mother's death and was held in slavery in the nearby village of Xococ for two years following the massacre. Ermelinda and José have three children. She weaves belts to order and is a member of the Pacux artisans' cooperative.

