



STORIES *in* THREAD

A TAPESTRY OF HMONG IDENTITY



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO PRESENTS AN ADVANCED LABORATORY FOR VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY PRODUCTION
A FILM BY TAMARA MAXEY "STORIES IN THREAD" EDITED BY JACKIE COON AND KARSTEN KAUFMANN CINEMATOGRAPHY BY DAYNE GRADONE AND ANDREW MATTISON
TECHNICAL ADVISOR DAN BRUNS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER BRIAN BRAZEAL PRODUCED BY WILLIAM NITZKY DIRECTED BY TAMARA MAXEY

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ANTHROPOLOGY

STORIES in THREAD

OFFICIAL PRESS KIT

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PRESS KIT

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ADVANCED
LABORATORY for
VISUAL
ANTHROPOLOGY

24 MINUTES
SHORT LENGTH | DOCUMENTARY | 2016
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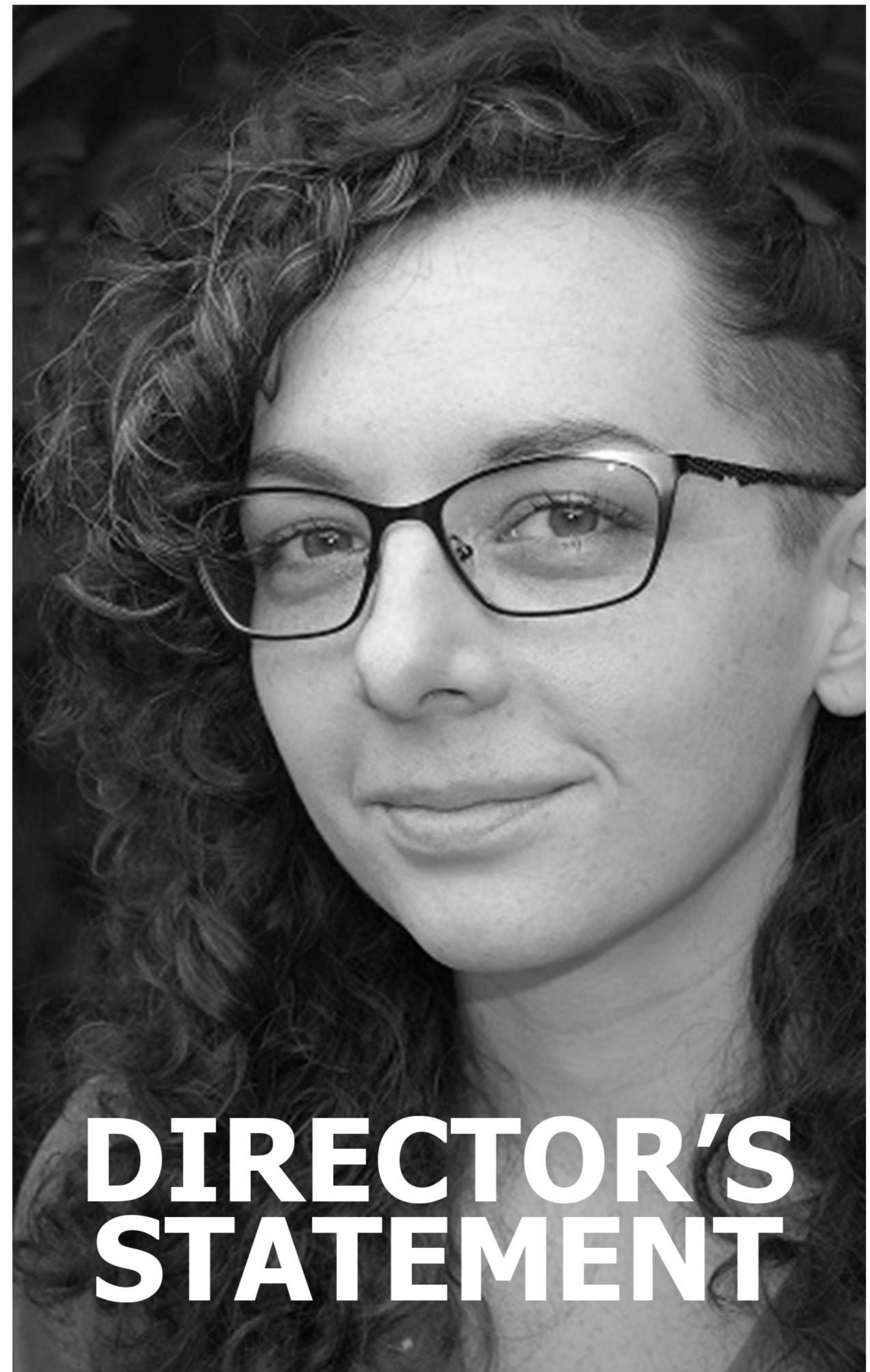
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INTERNET

WWW.CSUCHICO.EDU/ALVA/PROJECTS/2016/STORIES-IN-THREAD.SHT-ML

Stories in Thread began as a discussion of Hmong story cloths and how they functioned as historical documents for a people without a written language. The project evolved over time to encompass a broad range of traditional textiles and to examine their significance to the Hmong American community. The story of traditional Hmong textile-making is a timely story of cultural inheritance, survival, and change that illuminates the struggles that refugees face in trying to build new lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer S. Lee".

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

SYNOPSIS



SHORT

Stories in Thread focuses on traditional Hmong textiles, and discusses the significance of these hand-made works to identity, inheritance, and cultural survival.

LONG

Stories in Thread focuses on Hmong Pa Dau. The traditionally hand-made textiles are integral to what it means to be Hmong in America. From the history-laden story cloths – elaborately embroidered scenes of Hmong life that depict the devastation of the Secret War – to New Year clothes – intricate and time-consuming works of dedication that express one's clan affiliation and pride – the crucial importance of this craft to the Hmong American community is clear.

Despite this significance of Pa Dau to identity, inheritance, and cultural survival, the art form is in danger of disappearing. Through the interview of multiple generations of Hmong Americans, this film illustrates the history and significance of the textiles and explores the modern changes that are threatening their production. The perspective of the elder generation, the original fighters and refugees from Laos, is expressed in their own Hmong language and their fear of cultural loss is immediate and painful. The understanding of Hmong youth is conveyed by the often apologetic testimony of college students; a generation that is facing challenges and that their parents and grandparents never knew. The story of Hmong Pa Dau is the story of identity change and perseverance, it is an exploration of the refugee and immigrant experience, and also a commentary on contemporary minority issues in America.



TAMARA MAXEY DIRECTOR

Tamara has an interest in ethnography and the exploration of human experience. Attending the Anthropology Graduate Program at CSU Chico has opened up a world of opportunity for her to enter the field and apply her studies to meaningful projects that make a difference such as this film.



BRIAN BRAZEAL EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

An award-winning filmmaker and photographer, Brian is the founder and director of the Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology where researchers use the tools of professional digital cinema.



FILM CREW

JACKIE COON EDITOR

Jackie has a BA in Anthropology from Grand Valley State University and is currently working on her MA in Anthropology and Museum Studies.



KARSTEN KAUFMANN EDITOR

Karsten Kaufmann has a degree in Media Arts from CSU, Chico and a passion for storytelling. He specializes in cinematography as well as post production.

DAYNE GRADONE CINEMATOGRAPHER

Dayne has a BA in Anthropology from California State University, Chico and is currently pursuing an MA in Anthropology there as well.

ANDREW MATTISON CINEMATOGRAPHER

Andrew received his BA in anthropology and minor in European studies from California State University, Chico. He is currently studying in Italy as an Erasmus student for his MA in European culture.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

The Hmong are an ethnic group from mountainous regions of southern China

Hmongculture.net

Total Running Time - 24minutes

MPAA - Not rated

Aspect Ratio - 16x9, pixel size 4K 3840x2160p

Year - 2016

Website - www.csuchico.edu/alva/projects/2016/stories-in-thread.shtml

Television Standard - NTSC

Shooting Format - R3D

Sound Format - Stereo

Framerate - 23.976fps

Subtitles - English

Production Company - The CSU, Chico

Advanced Laboratory for Visual Anthropology

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



Amongst the Hmong, the Vietnam War is known as the Secret War

Hmongculture.net

"The number one priority [for the younger generation] is education. They only know books or school they don't know how to farm or sew."

MAI XIONG
FIRST GENERATION HMONG-AMERICAN

"Life in the camp is good and not good too. In the camp, we didn't know if we were going to stay in the camp for life or if we were going to be let out."

SALEN LOR
VIETNAM VETERAN

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



“Storytelling is huge for the Hmong culture. Things are passed on from generation to generation and sometimes it gets lost in translation. That’s what makes storycloths so important.”

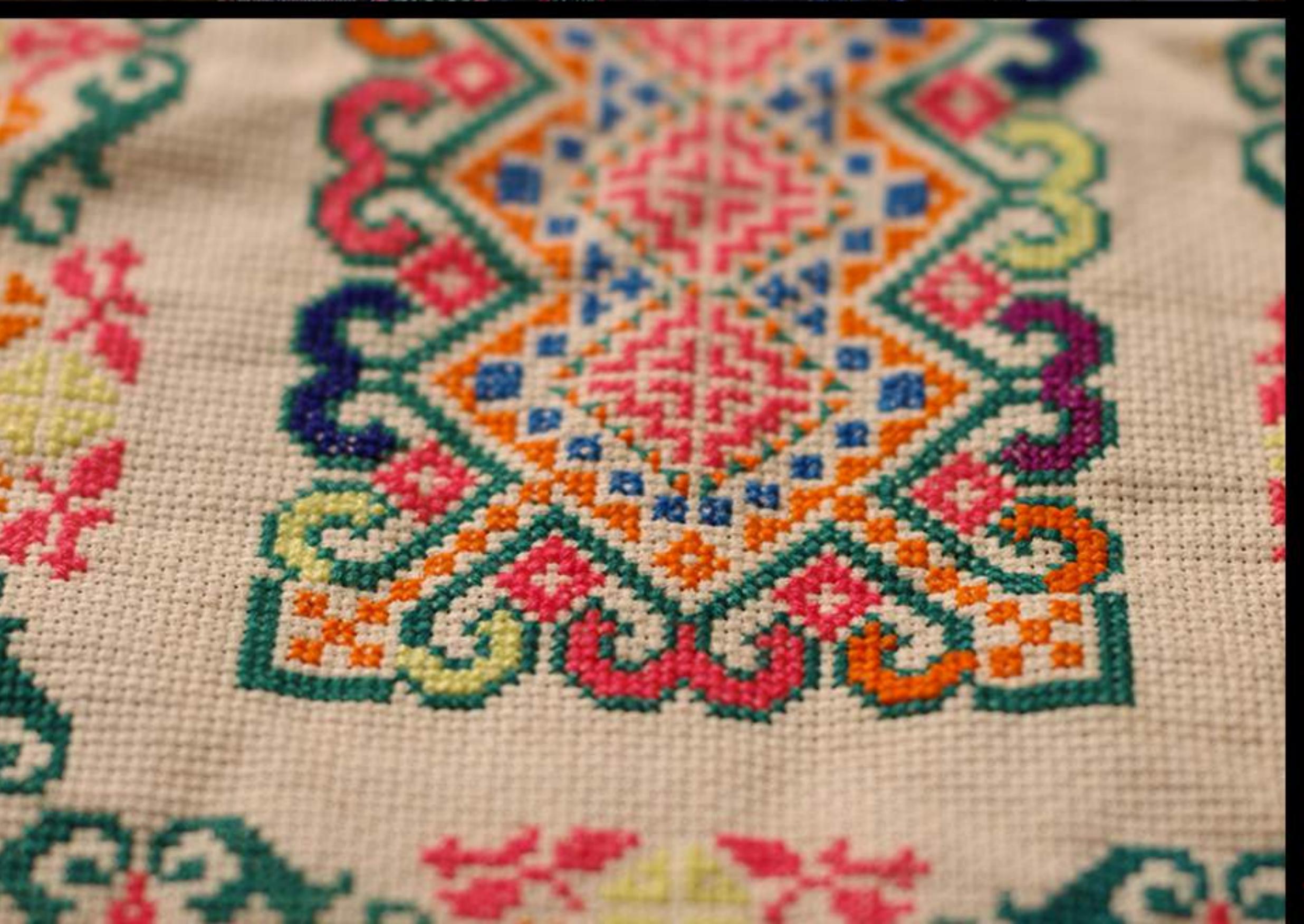
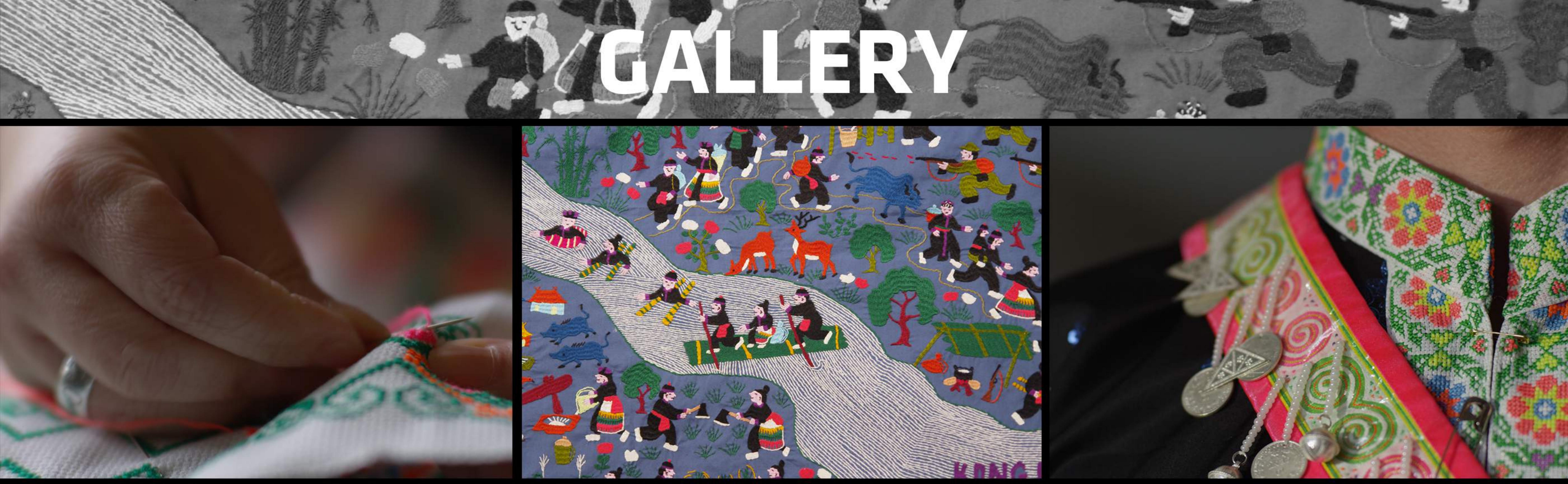
DR. CHAO VANG
CAREER COUNSELOR, CSU, SACRAMENTO



“A lot of people know about the Vietnam War but most Americans don’t know that the Hmong were involved. We call it the “Secret War” because nobody was supposed to know that we were a part of the Vietnam War.”

MAIHOUA LO
ADVISOR, CSU, CHICO

GALLERY



GALLERY



GALLERY



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ADVANCED LABORATORY for VISUAL ANTHROPOLOGY

AN ALVA PRODUCTION 2016

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