

Several years ago, while renovating one of the old houses in Chajul – a small town located in the highlands of Guatemala, inhabited mostly by the Ixil Maya – his owner came across unique mural paintings from the Colonial era. No one has ever discovered in the Maya area something comparable to murals from Chajul, neither in subject (the murals feature "Maya" dancers and "European" musicians involved in some kind of ritual dance) nor in style. After the team of scholars from the Jagiellonian University published a series of photos on the National Geographic website, it was possible to carry out the first basic conservation of the paintings from Chajul. It was also the moment when information about other houses with similar murals appeared.

The proposed project is aimed at studying the origins, history and meaning of the Chajul wall paintings through conservation, analysis of historical documents, archeological excavations in the vicinity of houses and anthropological study among the Ixil Maya people living in Chajul.