

Ock Pop Tok



Who are we and what do we do?

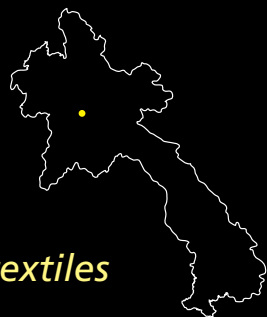
OckPopTok brings people together through textiles to exchange knowledge and ideas. This concept is embodied in our name, which in Lao means 'east meets west'.

We were founded in 2000 by a local weaver and an English photographer who set up an innovative textile gallery and workshop in Luang Prabang. The business now provides a livelihood for nearly 200 local people through the production of high quality textiles. Today we employ 30 full-time staff including weavers, designers, managers, stockists, guides/sales people, seamstresses, dyers, a cook and a gardener. We also offer market access and training to approximately 150 artisans from 7 rural villages. In all our work we are guided by principles of fair and sustainable trade. As well as salaries that are 2-3 times above the national average, our staff receive technical, financial and medical support.

Working in partnership with development agencies and the Lao Women's Union, we have trained artisans from remote areas in product design and other textile business skills. Our services are supported by our customers, with a percentage of sales going towards training villagers and thus sustaining the link between villages and markets.



Discover the secrets of Lao textiles



In April 2006, we founded *Fibre2Fabric*, a non-profit gallery that focuses on hand-crafted textiles as a way to explore and explain Lao culture. We curate three exhibitions a year, taking an in-depth look at both the cultural importance of weaving and the techniques used. Our gallery is located in the old quarter of Luang Prabang, close to the Mekong River. The weaving centre is 2 km out of town.

What can you experience?

- Meet the weavers who make the textiles. Our weaving centre is open to visitors, with a small café in the garden where you can enjoy refreshments along with a magnificent view of the Mekong.
- Discover the secrets of Lao textiles by visiting one of our galleries. Our guides will be pleased to show you our collections and lead you through the maze of motifs.
- Join us in a weaving class or dyeing class at our weaving centre. These give an insight into Lao culture and the significance of weaving. Classes last from half a day to one week.
- Visit the *Fibre2Fabric* Gallery and learn about the cultural relevance and production of textiles from various regions and ethnic groups in Laos. Information from previous exhibitions is available.
- Arrange a personalised talk to learn more about textiles and fair trade in Laos.
- Purchase beautifully crafted textiles such as scarves, dresses, wall hangings or a bedspread, or design your own textile and have it made.....

