



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCES



STITCHED VOICES: KNOWING CONFLICT THROUGH TEXTILES

BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTARY SERVICE COUNCIL

17/11/2017–20/12/2017

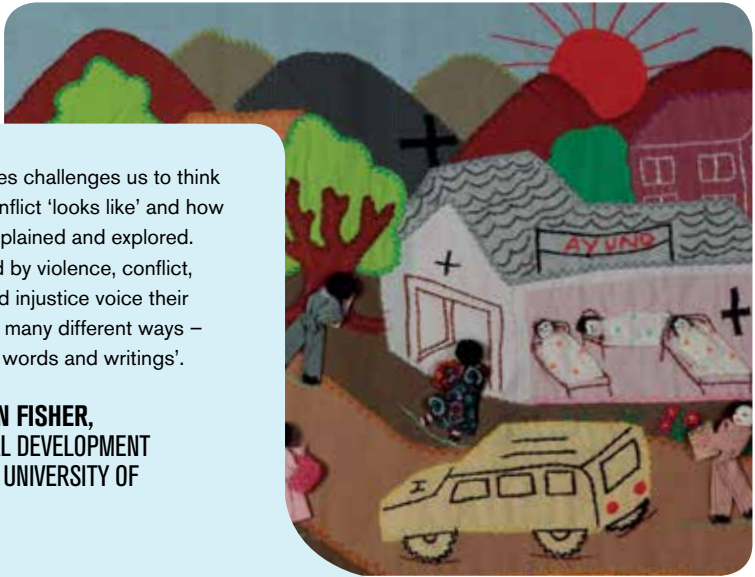
Image credit. The day we will never forget

Solidarity Peace Trust, Zimbabwe/Photo Shari Eppel/ © Conflict Textiles Collection

Ayuno/Fasting, Maria Lopez, 1990; Photo Martin Melaugh;
© Conflict Textiles Collection

'Stitched Voices challenges us to think about what conflict 'looks like' and how it should be explained and explored. Those affected by violence, conflict, oppression and injustice voice their experiences in many different ways – and not just in words and writings'.

DR JONATHAN FISHER,
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



Queremos Democracia/We want democracy, 1988; Photo Martin Melaugh; © Conflict Textiles Collection; Provenance Seán Carroll, USA

'Arpilleras have become a recognised language, powerfully narrating people's lived experiences of conflict when words fail to do so. Using painstaking textile language in arpilleras and quilts, Stitched Voices of testimony, resistance, memory and resilience converge in this exhibition to bear witness of conflicts and human rights' abuses in different parts of the world.'

ROBERTA BACIC,
CURATOR, CONFLICT TEXTILES COLLECTION



The day we will never forget
Solidarity Peace Trust, Zimbabwe/Photo Shari Eppel

'Stitched Voices offers a unique opportunity to experience through art the stories of those who have suffered conflict and abuse. We can feel their emotions, their everyday experiences and the power of their truth through the textiles. They are powerful tools where reconciliation meets resistance.'

SAMARA GUIMARÃES AND LOUIS MONROY SANTANDER, PHD RESEARCHERS



Cacerolazo/Women banging their pots
Felicia, 1988; Photo Martin Melaugh; Oshima Hakko Museum collection, Japan

'I never cease to be amazed at the vitality, the power, the simplicity, the ordinariness and the extraordinariness of these pieces, which draw us into their stories, confront us in our complacency and urge us to respond.'

BREEGE DOHERTY, ASSISTANT CURATOR



Stitched Voices is part of a research project – 'From data to knowledge: Knowing peace and conflict from afar' – which aims to explore and examine what peace and conflict look like, and how we should understand the experiences of those involved and affected. The project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and more information can be found at www.birmingham.ac.uk/from-data-to-knowledge or please contact Dr Jonathan Fisher at j.fisher@bham.ac.uk

The **Stitched Voices** team would like to thank:

Roberta Bacic,
Curator

Breege Doherty,
Assistant Curator

Emma Clarke-Allsopp and the **BVSC**

Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, **Lydia Cole**
and **Danielle House**,
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Claire Groom, **Samara Guimarães** and
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University of Birmingham

Juany Murphy

Stitched Voices will be accompanied by a range of events beginning with the exhibition's launch on 17 November at 5.30pm at the Birmingham Voluntary Service Council (BVSC), 138 Digbeth, B5 6DR.

Events will include:

22 November, BVSC

5.30–7.00pm: Breaking the Silence: Gender and Genocide – showcasing the work of Remembering Srebrenica

30 November, BVSC

5.30–7.00pm: Telling Tales: El Mantel de Club Amigos – a digital printing and hand embroidery activity

06 December, BVSC

5.30–7.00pm: 'Bozambique': Where healing meets resilience – looking at non-judicial transitional justice through photographs

Follow us on Twitter (@StitchedVoices) for more information and more events.



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Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk



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