



The Art of Survival, International and Irish Quilts

Exhibition 8 March to 19 April 2008
Derry City Council Heritage & Museum Service
Guest Curator, Roberta Bacic

Irish Quilt Catalogue



Common Loss: 3000+ dead between 1969 and 1994 by Irene MacWilliam

Catalogue created 6 March 2008 by Karen Duhai
Photos courtesy of Colin Peck and Karen Duhai
Photos © Roberta Bacic

The Art of Survival (Irish Quilts)

List of exhibition pieces	size in meters	Loc.
HARBOUR MUSEUM		
1 Crewel Embroidery , The Quaker Tapestry, Kendal: <i>Northern Ireland: Reconciliation</i>	0,54 x 0,64	HM
2 Crewel Embroidery , The Quaker Tapestry, Kendal: <i>Ireland: The Great Hunger 1845-1848</i>	0,54 x 0,64	HM
WORKHOUSE MUSEUM		
3 Quilt , Shared City Project, Derry/Londonderry: <i>Pathways of Life</i>	1,65 x 1,65	WH
4 Patchwork and Embroidery Quilt , Mission Hall Quilters, Derry/Londonderry: <i>Friendship through Quilting</i>	2,39 x 2,74	WH
5 Embroidered Quilt , Women from Cross Community Groups, Derry/Londonerry: <i>Friendship Quilt</i>	1,75 x 1,70	WH
18 Embroidered Wall Hanging , Quaker Meeting House, Belfast: <i>Frederick Meeting House Panels 1 and 2</i>	0,81 x 0,64	WH
7 Wall Hanging , Irene MacWilliam, Belfast: <i>Peace Quilt 2</i>	1,07 x 0,71	WH
THE JUNCTION		
8 Appliquéd Quilt , Commissioned by the Committee on the Administration of Justice and the Centre for Research and Documentation, Ireland: <i>Women's Rights are Human Rights: Cearta ban, Cearta daonna</i>	3,35 x 2,75	Jun
9 Patchwork Quilt , Women Together, Belfast: <i>Northern Ireland Peace Quilt</i>	1,62 x 1,82	Jun
VERBAL ARTS CENTRE		
10 Patchwork Quilt , Irene MacWilliam, Belfast: <i>Common Loss: 3000+ dead between 1969 and 1994</i>	1,50 x 2,30	VA
11 Painted and Patchwork Quilt , Arranmore and Tir Gohaine Women's Groups, Donegal: <i>Love Across the Waves</i>	2,00 x 2,40	VA
12 Quilt , Wave Trauma Centre, Belfast: <i>Reflection on Loss—From Darkness to Light</i>	1,32 x 2,60	VA
13 Quilt , Relatives for Justice, Belfast: <i>Remembering Quilt Panel 3</i>	2,05 x 2,05	VA

VOID GALLERY		
14 Quilted and Painted Wall Hanging , Deborah J. Stockdale, Glencolmcille: <i>Fern Woman</i>	0,60 x 0,51	Void
15 Quilted and Painted Wall Hanging , Deborah J. Stockdale, Glencolmcille: <i>Hands of Creation</i>	0,74 x 0,57	Void
16 Quilt , Mary Good, United States but living in Ireland: <i>Broken Promises</i>	1,83 x 1,83	Void
17 Quilt , Inner Wheel Club of Londonderry: <i>Majella's Quilt</i>	2,55 x 1,88	Void
18 Quilt , Women of Newbuildings, Derry/Londonderry: <i>Our Past, Our Present, Our Future</i>	1,88 x 1,40	Void
19 Embroidered Wall Hanging , Quaker Meeting House, Belfast: <i>Frederick Meeting House Panel 3</i>	0,81 x 0,42	Void
20 Quilt , Relatives for Justice, Belfast: <i>Remembering Quilt Panel 8</i>	2,05 x 2,05	Void
DIOCESAN CENTRE		
21 Patchwork Quilt , Women Together, Belfast: <i>Northern Ireland Reconciliation Quilt</i>	2,28 x 1,82	Dio
22 Wall Hanging , Deborah J. Stockdale, Glencolmcille: <i>Brigit's Dream</i>	1,65 x 1,68	Dio
THE PLAYHOUSE		
23 Quilt , Cathedral Youth Club, Derry/Londonerry: <i>Youth Unites</i>	1,30 x 0,70	PH
24 Quilt , Tina McLaughlin, Derry/Londonderry: <i>St. Eithne's Welcoming Quilt</i>	1,53 x 2,45	PH
25 Quilt , Playhouse Schools' Community Relations Project, Derry/Londonderry: <i>Stitch in Time</i>	1,62 x 1,29	PH
THE MUSEUM OF FREE DERRY		
26 Fabric Hanging , Irene MacWilliam, Belfast: <i>Events of 1994</i>	2,15 x 1,39	FD

The Quaker Tapestry

Northern Ireland Reconciliation

Crewel Embroidery

Kendal

This is just one of the 77 panels that comprise the Quaker Tapestry. A modern tapestry, this international community project explores three centuries of social history within 77 fascinating and unique panels. The Quaker Tapestry is made in a form known as narrative crewel embroidery. It is a delightful visual chronicle of Quaker life over more than 350 years since the Quaker movement gained momentum around 1652 to the present day.

The project began in 1981, when Anne Wynn Wilson, an experienced embroiderer, established the style. Anne's idea was to create a technique which would enable everyone who wished to join in the creativity to do so, whatever their previous embroidery experience. Since 1981, over 4,000 men, women, and children from fifteen countries have participated in this beautiful example of storytelling through craftsmanship.

The Quaker Tapestry today is housed within the Friends Meeting House in Kendal, Cumbria. It continues to provide opportunities for learning and the sharing of new skills in the friendly atmosphere of its programme of workshops.

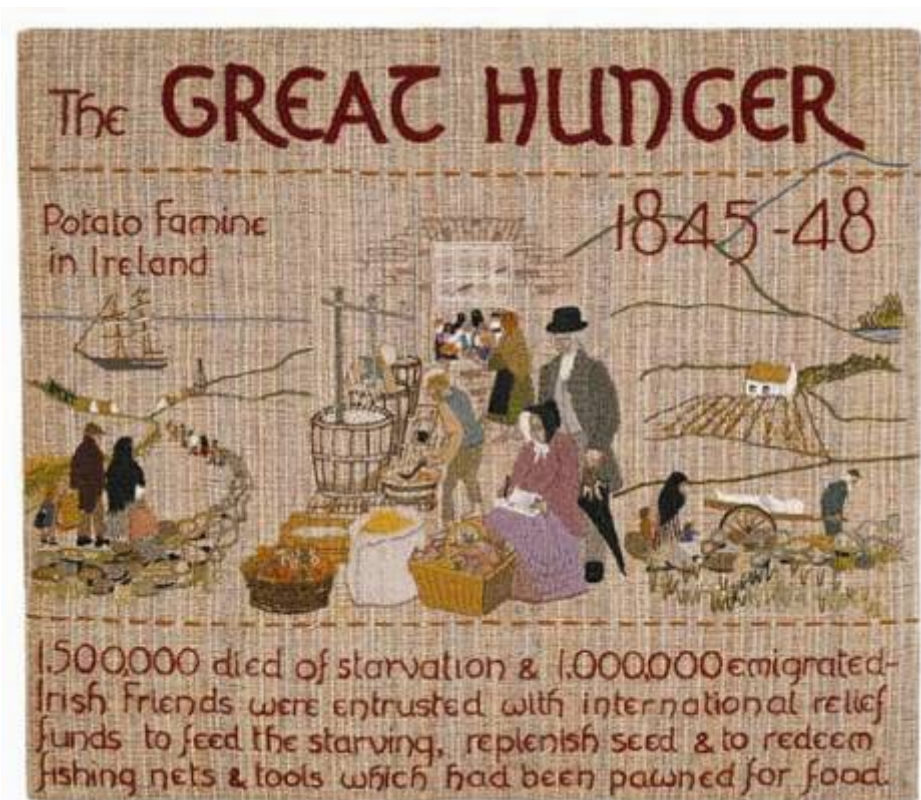
Peace-making and reconciliation often require the responsibility of working together over a long period of time. Quakers in Northern Ireland committed themselves to two small but demanding ventures in which personal relationships could be built up: at the Maze Prison a canteen and children's playroom for visiting families provided the background for listening to often bewildered people, and at Quaker Cottage children from both sides of the torn community are able to enjoy holidays together. Quakers are convinced that it is often through small processes that transforming events take place. *Designed by Anne Wynn-Wilson; embroidered by Quakers in Northern Ireland.*

0,54 x 0,64

Ireland: The Great Hunger 1845-1848

When the great famine occurred in Ireland due to the failure of the Irish potato crop in 1846/47, Irish Quakers organised a system of relief which became a model for others. The panel recalls the setting up of soup kitchens, aid in agricultural experiments, and help with funerals and emigration. *Designed and embroidered by the Wigham family and the Dublin & Waterford Quakers.*

0,54 x 0,64



Photos [Quaker Tapestry Scheme](#) ©

Relatives for Justice

Remembering Quilt Panel 3

Quilt

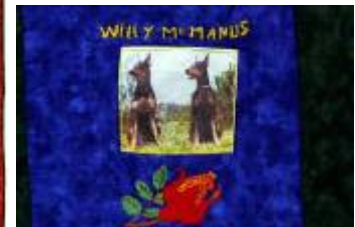
Belfast

The Relatives for Justice *Remembering Quilt* is a project for people who have been bereaved as a result of the conflict in Ireland. The quilt is made up of squares which have been dedicated to individuals who have died as a result of the conflict. These squares are designed and made by family members who wish to remember their loved ones in a creative and positive way. The squares are then brought together to form a large quilt which serves as a poignant remembrance of the great loss our community has had to bear.

Everybody who has lost a loved one during the conflict is welcome to participate. It is a positive opportunity for families and loved ones to participate in a country-wide project either from their own homes, or in groups, remembering their loss in an equal and all-embracing way. The project moves both families and communities away from the focus of the circumstances of a violent incident in which a life was lost towards restoration of a positive memory of the individual and understanding of the part they played in their family.

This quilt aims to promote the values of equality, understanding and empathy in a time of transition. This particular panel was chosen because one square was created by a woman from Derry in remembrance of her mother. The square includes a painted picture of her mother and her rosary ring, a tribute to her parent's love for each other and her family's loss.

2,05 x 2,05



Shared City Project

Pathways of Life

Patchwork Quilt

Derry/Londonderry

The *Pathways of Life Quilt* was crafted by the participants of the “Women into Irish History Group” between November 2005 and March 2006. Each square represents a significant event or place in the life of the woman who stitched it. These squares are like little snapshots and give us an insight into what influenced the lives of these women.

Many of the women had never sewn before. Many will never sew again! But during the winter of '05 and the spring of '06 these women gathered together every Monday morning to stitch and chat and share a piece of their own history with each other. They helped each other design and craft the squares, creating history whilst sharing history. The result is a beautiful piece of art with a story in every square and a story in itself.

1,65 x 1,65



Mission Hall Quilters

Friendship through Quilting

Patchwork and Embroidery Quilt

Derry/Londonderry

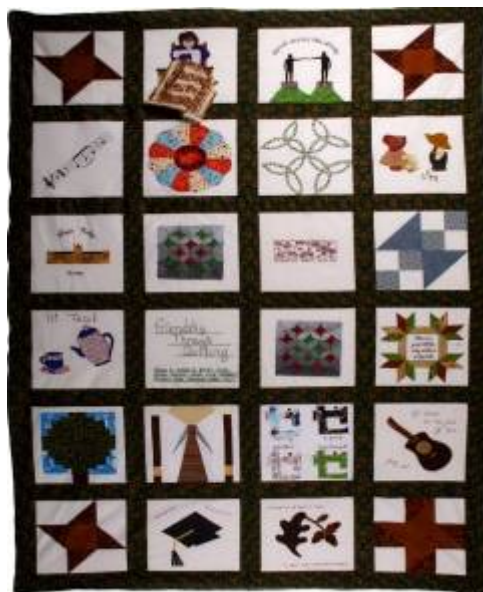
“Friendship through Quilting” was designed and created by a group of women from Derry / Londonderry who met through Mission Hall Quilts after taking part in a class through The Calico Project. After hearing about the Art of Survival Exhibition coming to the city they decided they wanted to become part of this exhibition and create a quilt to display. After several meetings and discussions the women agreed that they wanted to focus on how friendships have formed through the love and art of quilting.

All of the participants had different thoughts and ideas on this particular topic. For example, some women focused upon the quilting aspect of friendship by incorporating patchwork blocks, whereas others decided to create blocks which represented the city such as an oak leaves and statues.

Each corner block of the quilt contains a friendship star, which is a well-known block to quilters world-wide. These blocks were used to illustrate each woman’s passion for patchwork and the friendships which are formed behind the quilts.

While making the quilt many women formed relationships and swapped tips on patch working techniques and skills. When the blocks were put together the quilt was then sent to be professionally quilted as it will last for many years and be a part of Mission Hall Quilts.

2,39 x 2,74



Women from Cross Community Groups

Friendship Quilt

Embroidered Quilt

Derry/Londonderry

This quilt presents a visual history of Waterside. It was planned and co-ordinated by Eileen Hepburn, and stitched by women from cross community groupings. These women included Peggy Smith, Eileen Colhoun, and Eileen Wilson and Sister Helen from the Good Shepherd's. It was sponsored by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust and launched by Felicity McCartney.

To date the quilt has been hanging in St. Columb's Park House. It was discovered there by Tina McLaughlin, who thought it represented well the kind of figurative quilting that was being done in Northern Ireland. This was one of the first contributions to this exhibition. The road to the Irish quilt exhibition growing by networking, sharing meetings/workshops and contributing with quilts. It has taken the form of 26 diverse and beautiful quilts.

The *Friendship Quilt* is compiled of 9 panels depicting places, communities, institutions, church, defence points, sporting groups, youth groups, happenings, and events. These include, but are not limited to, the Siege of Derry, the Prehen Community, the Good Shepherd Convent community, and Ulster Workers Council Strike.

1,75 x 1,70



Quakers

Frederick Meeting House Panel 1 and 2

Embroidered Wall Hanging

Belfast

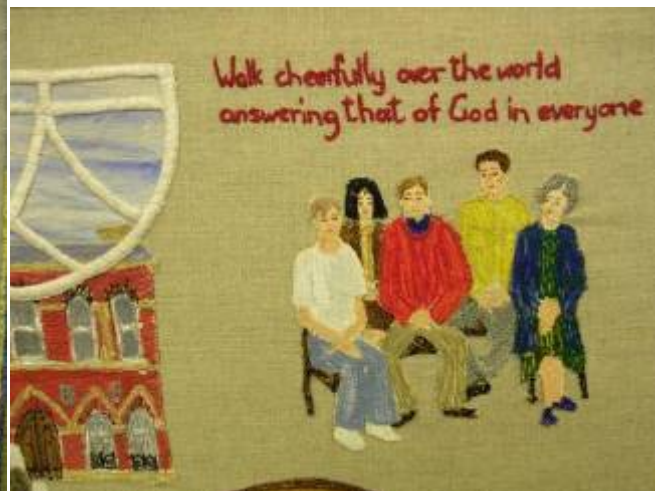
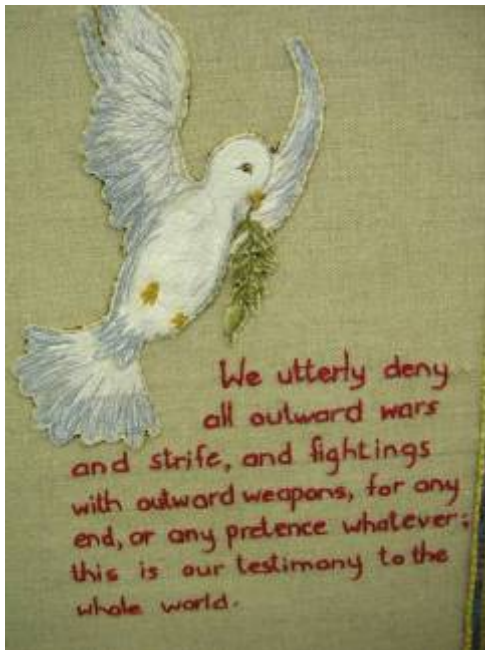
These panels are part of a set of three, created for the Frederick Street Quaker Meeting House in Belfast to mark the 350th Anniversary of Quakerism coming to Ireland in 2004.

The first panel, representing Quakerism and peace, shows the dove as a symbol of peace and some words from the Quaker Peace Testimony. The green olive branches around the border represent peace.

The other panel represents worship. In the Quaker tradition, the round table occupies the centre of the Meeting room and contributes to everyone's sense of belonging to the Meeting. This round table symbolises both the gathered Meeting and God, who is without beginning or end. The panel includes a representation of the blending of old and new with the worshippers portrayed in both old and modern dress. The façade of the old Meeting House is portrayed along with a window of the new Meeting House. This window both symbolises the new and the light of God.

The panels were designed and created by Patsy Browne. With Patsy's encouragement, everyone in the entire Meeting contributed to the stitching of the borders of the panels.

0,81 x 0,64 and 0,81 x 0,42



Irene MacWilliam

Peace Quilt 2

Wall Hanging

Belfast

In this quilt, "Blessed are the Peacemakers" is spelt out in Morse Code and Semaphore. Irene worked with three colours in creating this work: black, white, and red. Black and white depicts the misery of conflict. Red depicts the blood of those who have lost their lives.

The three quilts from Irene that are on display as part of this project are but a sample of her work. To learn more about her quilts, visit her website: www.macwilliam.f9.co.uk or e-mail her at irenemacwilliam@hotmail.com.

1,07 x 0,71



Relatives for Justice

Remembering Quilt Panel 8

Quilt

Belfast

The Relatives for Justice *Remembering Quilt* is a project for people who have been bereaved as a result of the conflict in Ireland. The quilt is made up of squares which have been dedicated to individuals who have died as a result of the conflict. These squares are designed and made by family members who wish to remember their loved ones in a creative and positive way. The squares are then brought together to form a large quilt which serves as a poignant remembrance of the great loss our community has had to bear.

Everybody who has lost a loved one during the conflict is welcome to participate. It is a positive opportunity for families and loved ones to participate in a country-wide project either from their own homes, or in groups, remembering their loss in an equal and all-embracing way. The project moves both families and communities away from the focus of the circumstances of a violent incident in which a life was lost towards restoration of a positive memory of the individual and understanding of the part they played in their family.

This quilt aims to promote the values of equality, understanding and empathy in a time of transition. This is the latest panel to be created, and was launched at Belfast Castle by South Africa's Ambassador to Ireland, a reflection on how the conflict in Northern Ireland has touched those around the world.

2,05 x 2,05



Commissioned by the Committee on the Administration of Justice and the Centre for Research and Documentation

Women's Rights are Human Rights: Cearta ban, Cearta daonna

Appliquéd Quilt

Ireland

The Committee on the Administration of Justice along with the Centre for Research and Documentation coordinated the production of the "Quilt for Beijing" Project in preparation for the 4th United Nations' World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in 1995. Both organisations are committed to the promotion of human rights throughout the island of Ireland, North and South.

The quilt has 30 panels created by a variety of women's groups from as far afield as Coleraine and Kerry, and sewn together in two border villages at "Sew-ins," the first taking place in Cashel, Co Fermanagh, and then in Omeath, Co Louth. Contributions came from rural and urban settings, North and South, women of all ages, Traveller women, and women in prison. The emphasis was on those who would not be able to attend the 4th World UN conference on Women.

Each panel reflects or highlights an issue relevant to each woman's group, e.g. education, identity, friendship, women's rights, freedom, etc. Catriona Ruane (CRD), Ann Bagnell (Bangor Soroptimists), Kathleen Keene (CAJ), and Noirin Clancy (Community Connection) took the quilt to the Beijing Conference where it hung in the European Tent. In addition to the main patches of the quilt, an additional patch was added to the bottom, created by the hands of children, a message, perhaps, that we must not forget those who will be the future of this world.

Since its return from Beijing, the quilt has travelled to places across the whole of Ireland, including Belfast, Coleraine, Craigavon, Derry, Fermanagh, Mayo, Newry, and Omeath. It has been used as an educational tool for community groups and schools and has been displayed at numerous conferences.

3,34 x 2,75



Women Together

Northern Ireland Peace Quilt

Patchwork Quilt

Belfast

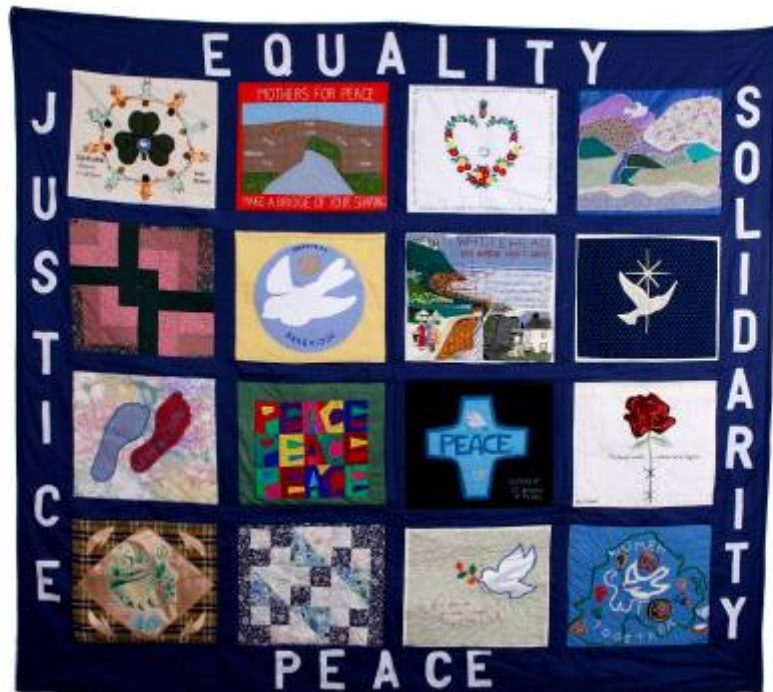
Women Together was founded in the autumn of 1970. The idea was inspired by Mrs. Ruth Agnew, a Protestant, who dreamt that women should unite and use their influence to promote peace and reconciliation within Northern Ireland. She was introduced to Monica Patterson, an English Catholic, living in Belfast. The first public meeting was held and Women Together was born.

Women Together aims:

1. To bring about a cessation of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.
2. To give support to the victims of sectarianism.
3. To give women a "voice" in society.
4. To create a pluralistic society where there is a mutual understanding and respect for our diversities.

This quilt is the product of the work of women and women's organisations all over Ireland with one panel from Scotland. Around the edge of the quilt are written the words Peace, Justice, Solidarity, and Equality. The patches on the quilt reflect these words, powerful statements of what is required for there to be peace.

1,62 x 1,82



Irene MacWilliam

Common Loss: 3000+ dead between 1969 and 1994

Four panel hanging

Belfast

This powerful quilt has become the emblem for much of this exhibition. Each piece of red fabric represents someone killed in the conflict between 1969 and 1994. In creating the quilt, Irene did not differentiate between groups of people.

This quilt has touched the lives of many people, both here and abroad. Although Irene did not suffer any personal tragedy as the result of the conflict, her sensitivity to the losses of others is inspiring. As the quilt began to take shape, people sent pieces of fabric to Irene. Cloth arrived from such diverse places as the United States of America, England, and Japan and Ireland.

The three quilts from Irene that are on display as part of this exhibition are but a sample of her work. To learn more about her work, visit her website: www.macwilliam.f9.co.uk or e-mail her at irenemacwilliam@hotmail.com.

1,50 x 2,30



Arranmore and Tir Boghaine Women's Groups

Love Across the Waves

Patchwork and Painted Quilt

Donegal

Following a successful residential for the Tir Boghaine cross border Carers Training programme on Arranmore Island in June 2004, we revisited with our Community Development Worker in September 2004 to meet their Women's Group.

During their meeting it was acknowledged that neither groups ever visited their neighbouring gaeltacht areas, and this initiated the idea for a networking proposal to link both groups through culture and language.

Two very successful residencies ensued in both Arranmore and in the Tir Boghaine area, and from these the seed was sewn to develop a patchwork project.

This patchwork piece was developed around the love story from the late 1800's between a merchant from the Tir Boghaine area, whose family was from Teelin in the Parish of Glencolmcille, and a girl from Arranmore. They met at the Fair day in Dungloe on the 4th of February and fell in love. They required parental consent to marry, so each returned home, promising to ask their parents for permission. As this predated modern systems of communication, they agreed to light fires on Glen Head, Glencolmcille, and Arranmore—both visible to each other, if permission was granted. Hence the title, "Love Across the Waves."

The women from both groups have met on many occasions to work on this piece in their own and neutral venues over the past couple of years. All this work has culminated in cementing warm friendships and the creation of a wonderful piece of community art which will enrich everyone who comes in contact with it. "Love Across the Waves" was officially launched in Dungloe on the 4th of February, 2008, on the anniversary of the lovers' meeting.

2,00 x 2,40



Wave Trauma Centre

Reflection on Loss—From Darkness to Light

Embroidered and Appliquéd Quilt

Belfast

This quilt was designed and produced by female members of Wave Trauma Centre who have lost either a husband or a child as a direct result of thirty years of conflict in Northern Ireland.

The theme of the quilt, Reflections on Loss—From Darkness to Light, relates to the members' personal journeys of grief and despair, from the darkness of bereavement and loss to the light of hope for the future. This journey is depicted symbolically in the quilt.

The piece takes the form of an embroidered tile dyed quilt using appliqué and featuring a lighthouse. The lighthouse represents guidance and protection through dangerous and troubled waters, and has been adopted by WAVE as its logo. A church and graveyard are also portrayed as integral to their journey.

1,32 x 2,60



Deborah Stockdale

Fern Woman

Quilted and Painted Wall Hanging

United States of America/currently residing in Glencolmcille, Ireland

The *Fern Woman* is a hand painted, hand quilted wall hanging panel. It evolved while Deborah was studying photos of the limestone formations of the Burren in County Clare. The stone is fissured by weathering wind and water. In the small intersections of the rocks, small amounts of soil had accumulated and tiny plants had taken hold, thriving in very austere and inclement conditions.

As Deborah played with sketches of this unique environment, the negative space of the fissured areas turned into the shape of a woman's body, with the strong, vigorous growth of the ferns filling in the space. To the artist, this symbolised the strength of the "female" energy and was a reflection on how many women live their lives in darkness or relative obscurity. Yet from this darkness, great growth, psychological and spiritual as well as physical, can appear.

Through the will to survive, even in political and social adversity, women mature, grow, and create.

0,60 x 0,51



Deborah Stockdale

Hands of Creation

Painted and Quilted Wall Hanging

United States of America/currently residing in Glencolmcille, Ireland

This is a painted and quilted wall hanging. The image is of Pan-Gaia, the Spirit of the Earth, which supports and sustains life. It is a feminine image with hands open and arms holding a globe. To Deborah, it expresses the nurturing and creative aspects of the female energy, and the idea of the entire planet being connected in all aspects.

0,74 x 0,57



Mary Good

Broken Promises

Quilt

United States of America/currently residing in Derry/Londonderry

This quilt was made as Mary Good's own personal tribute to the struggle of the Native American Indians during the settling of the Western United States by the Europeans in the 1800's. Her own ancestors were involved in the run into the Cherokee Strip, which is depicted in the section of the quilt called the Trail of Tears. This link has given Mary a very personal sense of grief regarding the situation.

Mary decided she needed to depict various occasions when the "white man" promised the Indians certain things and then broke those promises. The quote embroidered around the border is by Chief Red Cloud. It reads: "They made us many promises, more than I can remember, but they never kept but one. They promised to take our land and they took it."

1,83 x 1,83



Inner Wheel Club

Majella's Quilt

Quilt

Derry/Londonderry

This quilt was created to raise awareness of the need for funding for research into the cause and effect that breast cancer has for women in Ireland. It was created as part of a global initiative called "Quilt Pink," where women all around the world came together to create quilts to sell as a fund raiser in each country for breast cancer research.

The group that created this quilt began after a talk and display of quilts by quilt designer Gay Grant on International Inner Wheel day in 2006. The women in the Inner Wheel Club formed a quilting group to make a pink quilt for Majella Magee during her year as Inner Wheel District Chairman (Ireland), whose charities for support during her year in office were the Marie Keating Foundation Ireland and Cancer Research Northern Ireland. Majella took the quilt to all her meetings throughout Ireland, where it served as a visual message of survival for women facing the challenge of being diagnosed with breast cancer.

At the end of the exhibition, this quilt will be auctioned off with the proceeds benefiting breast cancer research.

2,55 x 1,88



Women of Newbuildings 2002

Our Past, Our Present, Our Future

Quilt

Derry/Londonderry

This quilt was created by a group of Newbuildings' women who worked as a team and acquired new skills, which culminated in the completion of this quilt. The quilt depicts influences which have had a significant impact on village life from its formative years to date. It also represents hopes for the future of this rural community.

This piece of work shows historical, educational, religious, agricultural, and community relations in the Newbuildings catchments area. It relates to the past history of the village, the village as it currently is, and the aspirations for the future of the village area.

1,88 x 1,40



Quakers

Frederick Meeting House Panels 3

Embroidered Wall Hanging

Belfast

This panel is part of a set of three, created for the Frederick Street Quaker Meeting House in Belfast to mark the 350th Anniversary of Quakerism coming to Ireland in 2004.

The Hands in this panel represent service. This panel also shows Quaker cottage, a project helping families and children. The blue violets around the border represent faithfulness.

The panels were designed and created by Patsy Browne. With Patsy's encouragement, everyone in the entire Meeting contributed to the stitching of the borders of the panels.

0,81 x 0,64



Women Together

Northern Ireland Reconciliation Quilt

Patchwork Quilt

Belfast

Women Together was founded in the autumn of 1970. The idea was inspired by Mrs. Ruth Agnew, a Protestant, who dreamt that women should unite and use their influence to promote peace and reconciliation within Northern Ireland. She was introduced to Monica Patterson, an English Catholic, living in Belfast. The first public meeting was held and Women Together was born.

Women Together aims:

1. To bring about a cessation of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.
2. To give support to the victims of sectarianism.
3. To give women a "voice" in society.
4. To create a pluralistic society where there is a mutual understanding and respect for our diversities.

This quilt is the product of the work of women and women's organisations all over Ireland and includes a panel from Australia. The focus of this quilt is on reconciliation, making sense of the past and moving into the future. The patches on this quilt reflect the experiences of women all over this country as they have made steps towards reconciling amidst the conflict in Northern Ireland and creating a better, more peaceful present and future.

2,28 x 1,82



Deborah Stockdale

Brigit's Dream

Wall Hanging

United States of America/currently residing in Glencolmcille, Ireland

This piece evolved from Deborah's thoughts concerning the various changes which have occurred in Ireland over the millennia. From the organised chaos, represented by the five spiral panels, evocative of the primordial energy of pre-Christian eras, as symbolised by Brigit, the image moves towards the structures and organization of the "Log Cabin" blocks. These indicate a move towards settlement and structure, and perhaps a taming and diminishment of the ancient feminist culture.

Using the Diaspora caused by the many famines and political upheavals as inspiration, the quilt also symbolises people moving from their "cabins," their hearths (the central small red squares) and homes, out into the wide world, as emigrants to all parts of the globe, symbolised by the "Flying Geese" patterned blocks in all four sections. By bringing their Irish dreams and traditions with them, and trying to hold on to their core values through thick and thin, the movement is both outward and inward, past and future, away and back home.

1,65 x 1,68



Cathedral Youth Club

Youth Unites

Quilt

Derry/Londonderry

This quilt was made by a group of 12 girls, aged 13 to 16, with the assistance of two facilitators. It took approximately three months of work, with the group meeting twice a week.

The idea is simple but beautiful. Sixty leaves are embroidered in wool and thread, one leaf for each member of the club. The two birds in the centre of the quilt represent peace. The bright colours of the quilt and the youthful nature of its makers represent hope for the future of Northern Ireland.

1,30 x 0,70



Tina McLaughlin

St. Eithne's Welcoming Quilt

Quilt

Derry/Londonderry

The "Welcoming Quilt" was commissioned for St. Eithne's Primary School in March '06 and was completed in one week. It was an interaction project between the classes P1-P7. The children explored the school and took photos of their activities and of each other. They then printed and transferred their images to cotton, then cut out and quilted felt letters onto the quilt itself. The letters spell out the school motto: Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future.

The quilt was facilitated and designed by Tina McLaughlin. The project was funded by the Playhouse in Derry/Londonderry.

1,53 x 2,45



The Playhouse Schools' Community Relations Project

Stitch in Time

Quilt

Derry/Londonderry

This was an intergenerational project and involved both children and adults from the wider Derry/Londonderry areas. The project was designed to engage them in meaningful discussions on identity, history, culture, and heritage, in the hope that it would not only address community relations issues, but that it would also bridge the ever expanding gap between children and senior citizens. The project also encouraged positive interaction between children from marginalized Protestant and Catholic communities, bringing them together to share their stories and to talk to older members of their communities.

The participants took an in-depth look at their identity, culture, and heritage and then sought to capture those elements in the form of small stitched fabric segments that were added together over the year, representing the thoughts and feelings of members from our society. Each participant created his or her own patch for the quilt, using images or words that most resonated with them. The patches were created using materials left over from shirt factories. The medium of needlework was chosen to represent the shirt factories and how they were an integral part of Derry/Londonderry's history, and a place where women and men, regardless of their religious affiliation, worked side by side.

The project was facilitated by Louise McElhinney, co-facilitated by Tina McLaughlin, and co-ordinated by The Playhouse's Community Relations Officer Siuán McLaughlin. To date, twelve schools have participated and 367 children have completed the project.

1,62 x 1,29



