

Continuum

Wall hanging, Eileen Harrisson, 2014

Eileen Harrisson collection

In 'Continuum' Eileen reflects on the ever-present threat of conflict which, once resolved in one place, appears to transfer suffering and sorrow elsewhere. Based on her experience of the Troubles in Northern Ireland and familial connections to both World Wars, Eileen uses stitched textiles to reflect this eternal cycle of violence as "the needle punctures the cloth in a violent act but the network of stitched threads heals the injured surface, making it whole again."



Her Pillow, the Earth

Arpillera, Eileen Harrisson, 2017

Conflict Textiles collection

This piece expresses Eileen's grief towards suffering in Aleppo, Syria and the tragedy of children caught in adult conflicts. She felt impelled to respond upon reading in the news about 2 year old Khanom Fallaha, killed by shelling on her home with her two brothers. In death, she lay as if sleeping and the article read, 'Tonight, she will be in the earth'. Haunted, Eileen stitched a shroud to cover the child as ruined buildings, once her home, threaten to topple onto her. The earth, soaked in blood, will be her final resting place.

