

# Conflict Textiles



Conflict Textiles is a collection of over 300 international textiles, which includes arpilleras, quilts and wall hangings. It has been developed by Chilean curator and human rights advocate Roberta Bacic, now resident in Northern Ireland. Currently the collection is being transferred to Derry City and Strabane District Council's Museum Service on a phased basis. The Collection is all about expressing life, resistance, continued struggle and justice by means of textiles. These textiles can be considered as a non-violent protest against injustices, mostly made by women who want to express themselves in ways other than words.

## What is an Arpillera?

An arpillera (pronounced ar-pee-air-ah) is a three-dimensional appliquéd textile that originated in Chile in the late 1960s. These became the medium for women, generally working collectively, to denounce the human rights abuses and repression of the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, 1973-1990.

The art of making arpilleras initially spread to women's groups in Peru and across Latin America and subsequently to different parts of the world including Zimbabwe, New Zealand and Northern Ireland.

