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Workshop

Tkanine sukoba/Conflict Textiles

14.00 – 16.00, 17th April 2019

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Rijeka

Introduction

This workshop, targeted at students from the Department of History and Cultural Studies of the University of Rijeka, was a collaboration of four agencies:

- *Documenta* - Center for dealing with the past;
- EPK Rijeka 2020
- Department of cultural studies, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Rijeka
- Stiftung "Erinnerung, Verantwortung und Zukunft" (EVZ)

It was led by Roberta Bacic and built on a long standing connection between her and *Documenta*.

Workshop content

Initially, Roberta introduced participants to the Conflict Textiles collection and to *arpilleras* in particular. She then gave a comprehensive insight to [Homenaje a los caídos / Homage to the fallen ones](#), an arpillera made in Chile in the 1970s. Following this overview, participants were given photos connected to the history of World War II in then Yugoslavia (1941-1945), the War in Croatia (1991-1995) and the War in Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992-1995). They were invited to create a small doll that linked to the photos. As the workshop drew to a close, all attendees shared their work with the group.



Photos from WWII, War in Croatia 1991-1995, War in Bosnia-Herzegovina 1992-1995



Participants engrossed in creating their dolls, in response to photos depicting the WWII and Wars of 1990s.

Outcome

At the end of the workshop participants had a good understanding of the Conflict Textiles collection. Seeing an *arpillera* first hand, and engaging with it through the doll making process, helped them develop an appreciation of the origins and significance of arpilleras. In addition, the 'hands on' nature of the workshop enabled them to make connections between the events depicted in arpilleras and their own local history, prompting them to reflect more in-depth on these events which has shaped their generation.

Written by: Alice Straniero and Tena Banjeglav, 30th April 2019.

Photos taken by: Alice Straniero, 17th April 2019.