



Report of associated activities to and exhibit of:

# Stitched voices

*29 August 2018 — 21 April 2019*

***Presented by Fredens Hus, Uppsala, Sweden,***

***in collaboration with the Conflict and method  
Node at Uppsala University, Conflict Textiles  
collection, and Aberystwyth University, UK***



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August 2018

29<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 8pm

### *Inauguration*

The inauguration of the exhibition was very successful and had a good turnout. We saw a lot of new visitors that had never heard of Fredens Hus before, which we take as an indication that our public relations and new cooperations, especially with the Conflict and Method Node at Uppsala University represented by Dr Roland Kostić, worked well in extending our reach to broader audiences.

Prior to the inauguration, Conflict Textiles curator Roberta Bacic gave an introduction to the exhibition and its origin, curatorial line and purpose to the full staff of Fredens Hus (8 persons) to ensure the team was knowledgeable about the exhibition and able to answer different types of questions from visitors.

Opening program:

- Opening speech by Linda Forsberg, chair of the board of Fredens Hus
- Speeches by Berit Bliesemann de Guevara, Reader in International Politics at Aberystwyth University, and Roland Kostić, Senior Lecturer in Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Uppsala University
- Speech and guided tour by Roberta Bacic, Conflict textiles curator
- Thanks by Camilla Winter Jarlgård, project manager and curator/exhibition producer at Fredens Hus

Number of attendees: 72





September 2018

*4<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 2pm*

*Presentation of the exhibition*

We gave a guided tour to members of the Red Cross in Uppsala in order to explore future cooperations on themes of human rights and racism.

Number of attendees: 3

*7<sup>th</sup> 10am – 11.30am*

*Developing material*

Staff at Fredens Hus developed guided tour material in Swedish and English as part of our peace education work through guided tours. Importantly, we added a number of interactive elements to the guided tour to further our educational aims.

Number of attendees: 6

*8<sup>th</sup> 10am – 7pm*

*“The Night of Culture”*

The Night of Culture is a day and evening full of activities in Uppsala. At Fredens Hus we gave four guided tours, two in Swedish and two in English. In addition to this programme at the exhibition venue, we also cooperated with the activist group Kraftwirk, who gave workshops on how to stitch, crochet and patchwork to make a political statement on a pedestrian bridge over the small river in Uppsala's centre. The goal was to “clothe” or “dress” the bridge in messages. The workshops helped to bring the exhibition to the attention of the wider public and also highlighted to participants that there are many different ways and methods to make your voice heard, to make a statement, or to send a message.

Number of attendees: Four guided exhibition tours with a total of 36 participants; estimated number of people taking part in the workshops: 400.

# fredens hus

En samlingsplats kring konflikter och möjligheter



13<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 6pm

## *Presentation of the exhibition*

The exhibition was presented to the board of Fredens Hus as part of a day aiming at developing the work of Fredens Hus. In this context, the exhibition turned out to be essential to our thinking about different ways of working with the themes of conflict and human rights etc.

Number of attendees: 16

# fredens hus

En samlingsplats kring konflikter och möjligheter

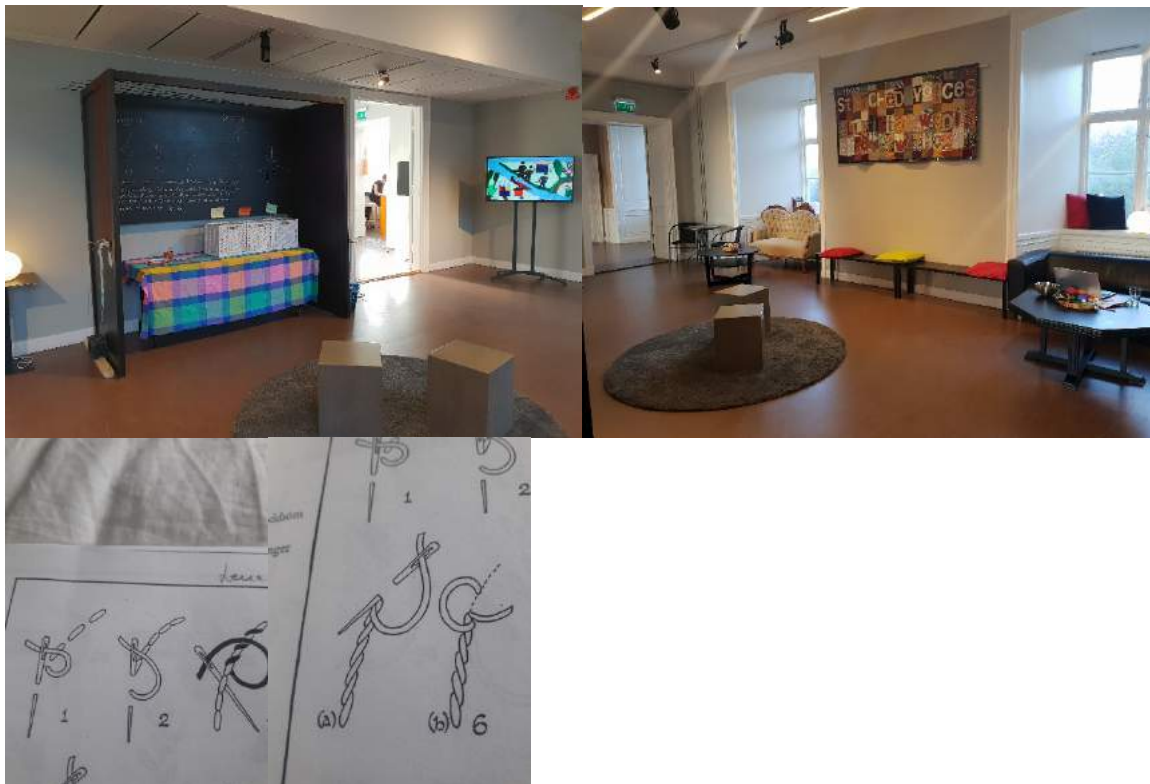
20<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 8pm

## After Wirk

Opening of the “After Wirk” concept: A room next to the exhibition room was opened as an area which invited visitors to creatively reflect about what they had seen and read in the exhibition and which thoughts and feelings had arisen from this engagement with the conflict textiles. Instructions on how to embroider and do patchwork and weaving were available in the room. The results will permanently remain at Fredens Hus.

The name “After Wirk” plays with the concept “After Work” but exchanges “Work” for “Wirk”, deducted from the Swedish word for crochet, “virka”.

Number of attendees: 2





*25<sup>th</sup> 10am –11am*

*Guided tour*

We gave a guided tour for a group of students from the Anthropology programme at Uppsala University, held in English.

Number of attendees: 20



*27<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 8pm*

*After Wirk*

A room next to the exhibition room was opened as an area which invited visitors to creatively reflect about what they had seen and read in the exhibition and which thoughts and feelings had arisen from this engagement with the conflict textiles. Instructions on how to embroider and do patchwork and weaving were available in the room. The results will permanently remain at Fredens Hus. During the After Wirk sessions staff were available to give guided tours or talk about the exhibition and textile ways of expressing an opinion etc.

Number of attendees: 2

# fredens hus

En samlingsplats kring konflikter och möjligheter

October 2018

2<sup>nd</sup> 10.15am – 11.30am

*Uppsala University class*

Visit by a group of students attending the course Transitional Justice: Retribution, Coexistence, Reconciliation, taught at Hugo Valentin Center, Uppsala University. Class taught by Roland Kostić; introduction to the sewing area by Fredens Hus.

Number of attendees: 11



4<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 8pm

*After Work*

In cooperation with the organisation Gerillaslöjd ('guerrilla craft'), we held a workshop which focused on making yarn balls, which each had a written message that its maker wanted to send to the political leaders of Sweden. The group will continue this work with the aim to make a big mat out of these balls and roll it out in front of the Riksdagen (Parliament) in Stockholm. The workshop aimed to open participants' mind on how one can spread one's opinion, send a message, make a statement etc. that is not based on more conventional protest methods such as writing an article or talking at demonstrations.

Number of attendees: 6





# fredens hus

En samlingsplats kring konflikter och möjligheter

*5<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 9pm*

## *Concert & guided tour*

Music is also a way of making a statement or sending a message. We had the honour of holding a concert with the famous guitar quartet El Cuarteto - Guitarras del Uruguay. Before the concert started, a guided tour was given to embed the performance into the concept of the exhibition. The event was held in cooperation with the Uppsala Guitar Festival.

Number of attendees: 32



*10<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm – 3.30pm*

## *Guided tour*

Guided tour for a group from the Swedish Church.

Number of attendees: 9

# fredens hus

En samlingsplats kring konflikter och möjligheter

11<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 8pm

After Work

Together with the organisation Barnens Å-hus (Children's Riverside House) we held a workshop which focused on the technique of making stamps out of rubber erasers. Everybody worked together at making a map of Uppsala focusing on "areas of uniting".

Number of attendees: 8



18<sup>th</sup> 6pm – 8pm

After Work

Together with Uppsala's Amnesty International chapter we gave an introduction to the exhibition and a presentation on women's rights. Afterwards attendees were invited to make their own mini-flag to send a message. The flags were then sewn together into a bigger piece and will be used by the Uppsala Amnesty chapter in their work for women's rights.

Number of attendees: 24





24<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm – 7pm  
*Uppsala Peace Prize*

The Uppsala Peace Prize is awarded by Uppsala's United Nations association and United Nations district (see <https://fn.se/uppsala/uppsala-fredspris-uppsala-peace-prize/>). During the autumn, Fredens Hus worked with the Uppsala UN association to elicit nominations from the public of people who make a big difference to society, giving their time and effort for free. The winner was announced during a ceremony at Fredens Hus, which was linked to the exhibition and its central message.

Program for the evening:

5.30 pm Gathering

6.00 pm Guided tour of Stitched Voices

6.30 pm Announcement of the winners and speeches

Peace and security – Winner: The moms of Gottsunda. With strong courage and action the moms of Gottsunda show that change is possible, that we can be active, inspiring and in a positive way affect our own situation and that of others.

Human rights – Winner: RISK, Fana Habteab. With great and untiring engagement RISK keeps fighting locally, nationally and internationally to stop the genital mutilation of young girls.

Sustainability and development – Winner: Karin Hallén Sehlin. Karin is a person who is genuinely engaged in work for refugees, both at the individual and societal level, including work with and for unaccompanied adolescents and children coming to Sweden on their own.  
Number of attendees: 70





31<sup>st</sup> 4.45 pm – 5.30pm

*Guided tour*

Guided tour arranged by the Swedish Church for participants of the international ecumenic conference ACT Alliance. One tour was held in English and one in Spanish. The participants contributed with their knowledge; for example, an engaging discussion about the Chilean *arpilleras* arose among a group of participants of Latin American origin, some of whom spontaneously danced the Cueca depicted in one of the exhibits to illustrate the dance.

Number of attendees: 35





November 2018

*11<sup>th</sup> 12pm – 4pm*

*Museidagen (Day of Museums)*

During the opening hours of the Day of Museums, we hosted Barnens Å-hus again to finish the map of Uppsala focusing on “areas for uniting”, using the technique of making a wall hanging with stamps made of rubber erasers.

Number of attendees: 94 on site, 8 guided



February 2019

28<sup>th</sup> 1pm – 3pm

Visit by a group of students attending the course Psychology of Violence, taught at Hugo Valentin Center, Uppsala University. Class held by Roland Kostić, introduction of the documentaries and the sewing area by Fredens Hus.

Number of attendees: 14



# fredens hus

En samlingsplats kring konflikter och möjligheter

March 2019

9<sup>th</sup> Noon – 4pm

## Making an arpillera

Belgica Castro, a textile maker of Chilean origin who lives in southern Sweden, came to Fredens Hus to hold a workshop on making *arpilleras*. She also talked about her own experience of being a victim of the Chilean torture chambers illustrated in some of the exhibits and about the loss of her husband who until this day remains disappeared without her knowing for sure what happened to him.

The *arpillera* that was made this day will be a permanent wall hanging at Fredens Hus. The arpillera focuses on the work done by the Swedish girl Greta Thunberg to raise awareness of the problem of climate change. The participants each made an *arpillera* doll representing their support for Greta. Afterwards the dolls were sewn onto the *arpillera*, forming a circle around a sewn image of Greta.

Number of attendees: 94 on site, 15 actively took part in making a doll.





*12<sup>th</sup> 1 – 3pm*

Visit by the Hugo Valentin Centre staff, Uppsala University. Guided tour held by Roland Kostić, introduction of the documentaries and the sewing area by Fredens Hus.

Number of attendees: 14







April 2019

*5<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm – 3pm*

*Guided tour*

Students from the Anthropology programme at Uppsala University visited the exhibition and took part in a guided tour in English, followed by practical interaction involving the stitching or weaving of a message in the After Wirk room.

Number of attendees: 25



*17<sup>th</sup> 15.15am – 16.30am*

*Uppsala University class*

Visit by a group of students attending the course Transitional Justice: Retribution, Coexistence, Reconciliation, taught at Hugo Valentin Center, Uppsala University. Class held by Roland Kostić, introduction of the sewing area by Fredens Hus.

Number of attendees: 15



## Statistics

People visiting the exhibition 29 August 2018 — 21 April 2019: **7,213**

Monthly reported:

Aug 166

Sep 1,247

Oct 1,055

Nov 757

Dec 446

Jan 628

Feb 825

Mar 1,197

Apr 892

People taking part in the associated activities: 958

### **Afterword by Camilla Winter Jarlgård**

The Stitched Voices exhibition has brought a lot of new collaborations and visitors to Fredens Hus. There was a huge interest in this type of exhibition from different points of view, appealing to people with an interest in historical events, in women making their voices heard, in arts and crafts, in alternative methods of studying and learning about conflict, and in human rights. Each topic attracted a different group of visitors who spread the word about the existence of Fredens Hus to new arenas of social interaction. The exhibition offered both guided tours and a chance to making one's own voice heard through the sewing room next to it. The sewing room has been well-visited although the finished pieces did not meet the numbers we expected; we will explore how to finalise this work with a view to make a permanent wall hanging at Fredens Hus that memorialises Stitched Voices. Thank you for a good cooperation and very satisfying results.