

# THE ART OF THE BANNER

MAKING THE FUTURE

January 2021

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FUTURE

DC TOURS



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# The Art of the Banner

A Linen Hall Library and Making the Future programme exploring the history of banners in Northern Ireland

The Art of the Banner was part of the Linen Hall Library's Making the Future Programme which was held between January and March 2021. The programme explored conflict textiles around the world, protest placards, as well as parade and trade union banners in Northern Ireland.

The workshops were led by Roberta Bacic from Conflict Textiles, renowned arpillera and textile artist Deborah Stockdale, DC Tours guide Paul Donnelly and Making the Future Engagement Officer and artist Lesley Cherry.

We looked at the messages these banners have had over the years, the skills involved in making them and how the protest banner is as relevant today as it was for our past generations.

The participants also created their own 'conflict textile' which this document records. This programme was open to all ages and abilities across Northern Ireland and the boarder counties.

*I absolutely loved this workshop. Art of The Banner opened up a whole new world. The talks and guidance were fab... I am planning my next banner and have told all my friends about Conflict Textiles. A big thanks to and Making The Future... In such challenging times this had been an absolute joy.*

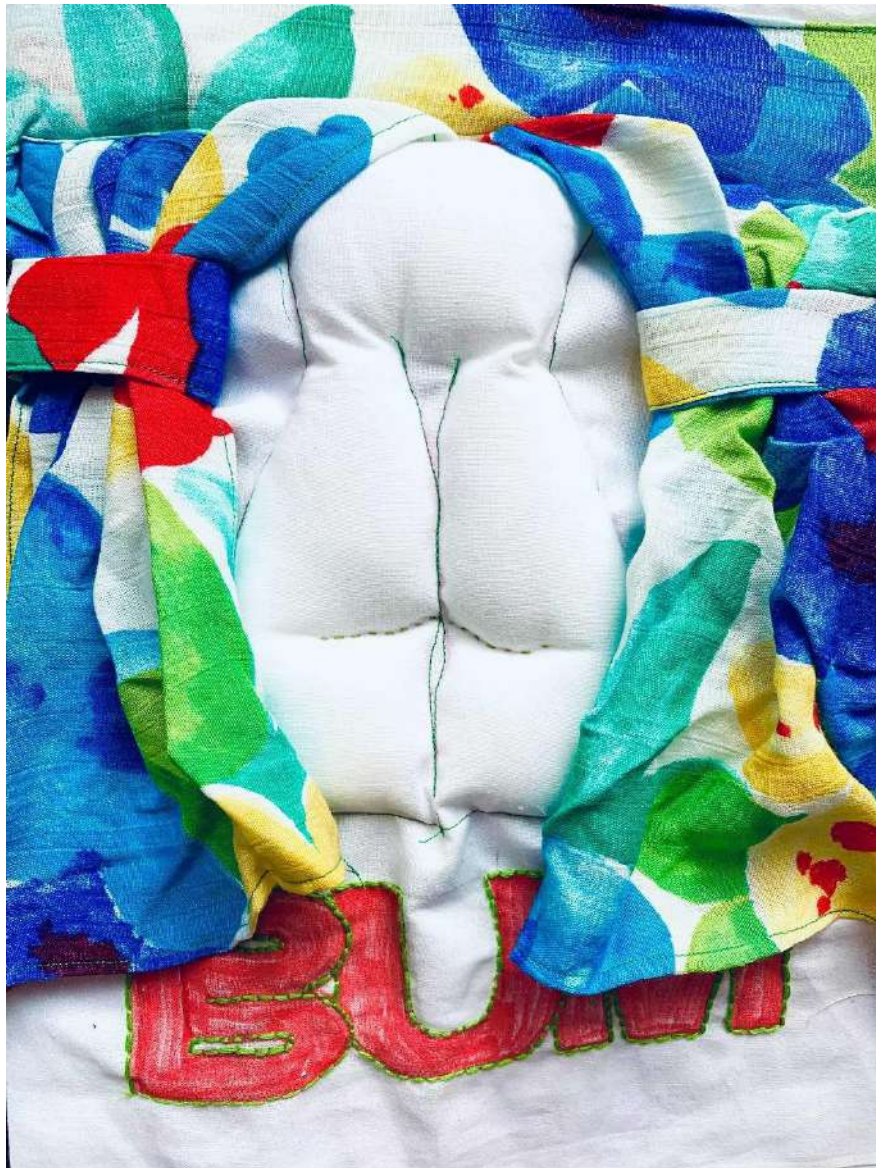
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# The Art of the Banner

## Participants Work

### Deirdre Convery

My textile is inspired by a painting by Pauline Boty, one of the original English pop artists. I used fabric paint to make the body skin colour and sewed on pants and a sanitary towel as part of period poverty awareness.



*Deirdre Convery Period Poverty Making the Future Project 2021*



## Helen Quigley

My Banner highlights that it's a woman's choice to have a termination and access to this procedure. I made it in the colours of the Suffragettes. This is a subject which I feel very strongly about and feel it should be addressed in Northern Ireland. Loved doing it. Thanks for the great workshops. All the best to everyone. PROTEST. PROTEST. REBEL.



*Helen Quigley My Choice Making the Future Project 2021*

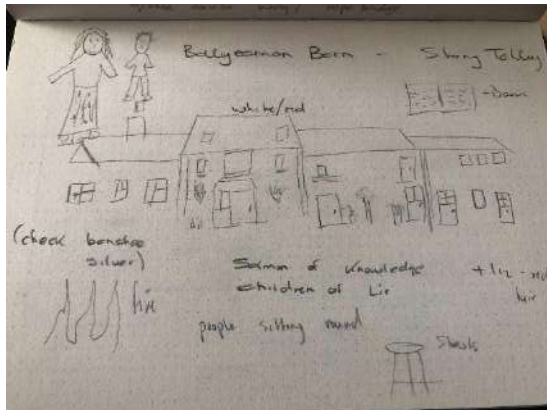


*Helen Quigley My Choice Making the Future Project 2021*



## Jacks Baker

I absolutely have loved this workshop. Art of The Banner opened up a whole new world. Roberta Bacic and Deborah Stockdale's talks and guidance were fab... I am planning my next banner and have told all my friends and spoke about Conflict Textiles. A big thanks to Lesley Cherry and Making The Future... In such challenging times this had been an absolute joy.



*Jacks Baker Tales of My Homeland Making the Future Project 2021*



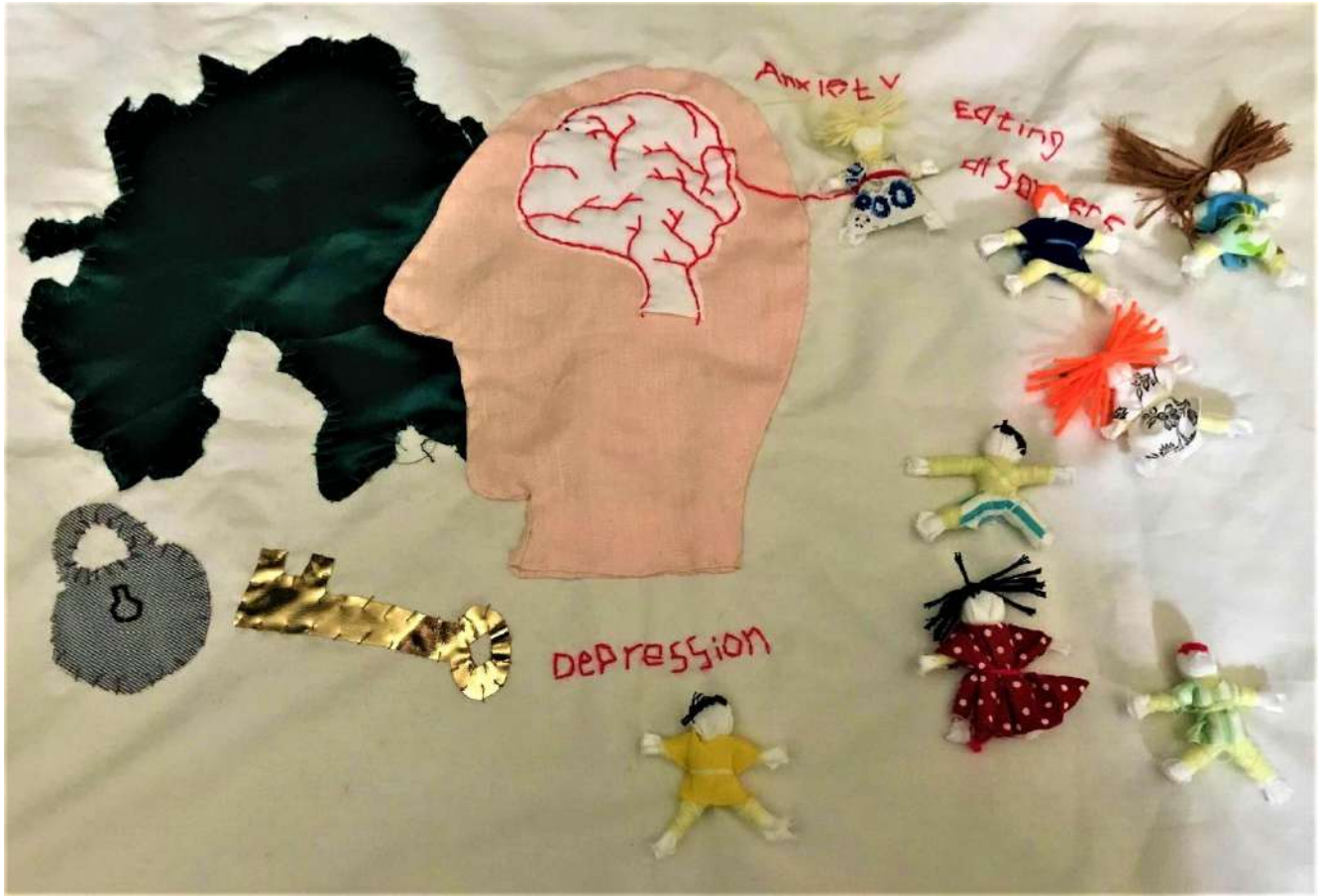
## Karen Douglas

The Art of the Banner was a really inspiring arts experience. Lead by textiles experts who opened up a whole new world of textiles commemorating conflict and causes. I was inspired to create and impressed by everyone involved.

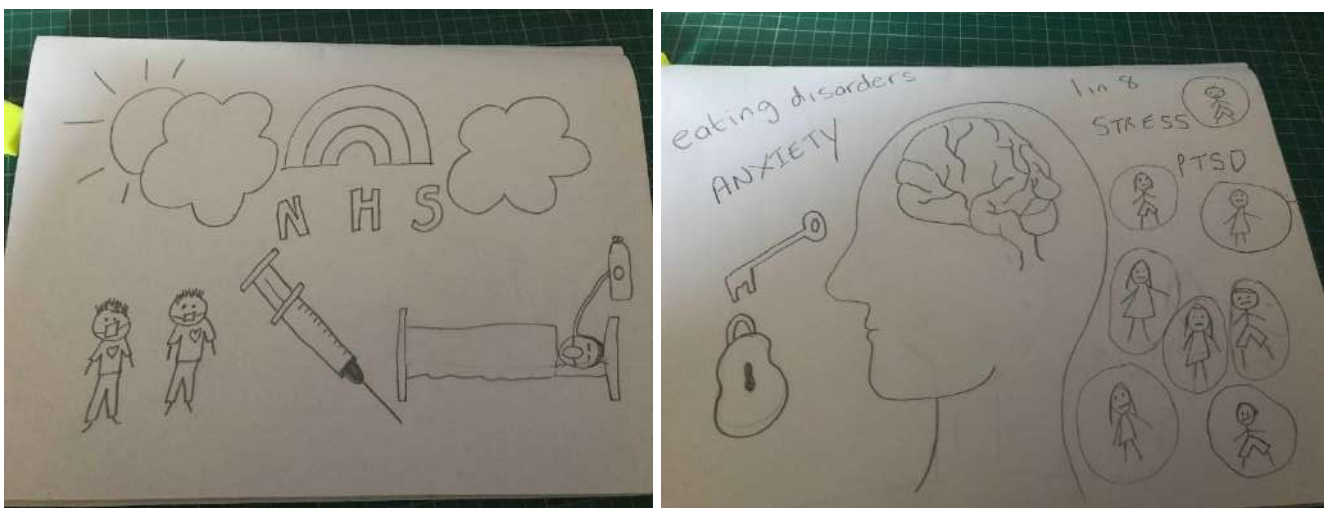
Learning the traditions behind banners from Paul Donnelly was so informative and the workshops and talks with both Roberta Bacic and Deborah Stockdale were so enjoyable. Learning skills to develop my own banners has been so rewarding and uplifting during these unprecedented times. Having something to motivate and uplift spirits has been so beneficial in many ways. I want to thank making the future and Lesley Cherry for this unforgettable experience.



Karen Douglas Save the NHS Making the Future Project 2021



Karen Douglas Take Care of Yourself Making the Future Project 2021



Karen Douglas Making the Future Project 2021



## Rosalind Lowry

### Endangered Species List 481

Irish Linen dyed with peat, hand stitch, machine stitch, paint, hawthorn branches and sphagnum moss.

Size: 183cms x 38cms

I included the following subjects in my banner: Endangered species of Northern Ireland including a red mark for each of the 481 species on the list, 7 pleats across the linen to mark the 7 years before the Curlew disappear, sundew and sphagnum moss which are endangered plants, drawings of the boglands and the commercial peat extraction and destruction of the bogs, a drawing of a female bog body discovered in Ireland, a print of my face as we are all bog born and return to the land, machine stitching of plants, hand embroidery in gold thread on the bog woman. The banner is in tribute to the disappearing environment of Northern Ireland.



Ros Lowry Endangered Species Making the Future Project 2021



Ros Lowry Endangered Species Making the Future Project 2021





Ros Lowry Endangered Species Making the Future Project 2021



Ros Lowry Endangered Species Making the Future Project 2021



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## Sarah Diver

### The Sun Banner

Block printed and natural dyed hemp / silk fibre. 110cm x 30.

'The Art of the Banner project was great to take part in and gave me an opportunity to consider and design a piece related to my cultural heritage. All the facilitators did an excellent job at coordinating and providing really interesting examples of banner making at its wider relevance to Northern Irish culture.'



Sarah Diver The Sun Banner Making the Future Project 2021

## Sonia Moore

### “Life Changing Decisions”

Size 61cm x 54cm

The Art of the Banner was an insight into how textiles were and still are used to tell stories and document history. Roberta Bacic and Deborah Stockdale presented their art and talked of their work. This was a great opportunity to hear from two renowned ladies who were happy to take questions. I also enjoyed learning about the banners from Northern Ireland with Paul Donnelly. The event gave us the opportunity to create our own textile piece and the whole program was really enjoyable and well organised.







Sonia Moore Life Changing Decisions Making the Future 2021

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## About Making the Future

Making the Future is a **cross-border cultural programme** which will empower people to use museum collections and archives to explore the past and create a powerful vision for future change. The regional programme is being delivered by a consortium of leading cultural organisations including the Nerve Centre, National Museums NI, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and Linen Hall Library, supported through €1.82m of EU funding under the PEACE IV Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body

Project Info [\\_ Making the Future](#)

[www.makingthefuture.eu/project-info](http://www.makingthefuture.eu/project-info)

## About The Linen Hall Library

The Linen Hall Library is a truly unique institution. Founded in 1788, it is the oldest library in Belfast and the only remaining library in Ireland that still generates a proportion of its income from membership. The Library is free to enter and enjoy, and is housed in a stunning Victorian former linen warehouse in the picturesque Donegall Square, across from Belfast City Hall.

It has a radical and ‘enlightenment’ foundation, and has prized its independence and maintained the principle that its resources are owned by the community for the community. It is renowned for its unparalleled Irish and Local Studies Collection, ranging from comprehensive holdings of Early Belfast and Ulster printed books to the 350,000 items in the Northern Ireland Political Collection, the definitive archive of the recent ‘Troubles’

## About Conflict Textiles

**Conflict Textiles** is home to a large collection of international textiles, exhibitions and associated events, all of which focus on elements of conflict and human rights abuses. Conflict Textiles is an ‘Associated Site’ of [CAIN](#) (Conflict Archive on the Internet) at Ulster University, Northern Ireland. The collection is mainly comprised of arpilleras, quilts and wall hangings. Making visible the struggle for the disappeared remains at the very core of the collection.

*“...the arpilleras were a special way to interpret my pain and at the same time communicate it to others... a denouncement ... my protest through the arpilleras has been silent, strong, desperate, full of unending tears. I can’t count the long nights I spent making arpilleras and soaked the cloth because I was crying so much.”*

Chilean arpillerista Mireya Rivera Veliz (Sepúlveda, 1996)

## About Dead Centre Tours

Dead Centre Tours are the leading walking tour operator in Belfast and have won numerous awards for their forthright, truthful and engaging tours of the city. Paul Donnelly has been lead tour guide at DC Tours since 2013. His background is in Adult, Community and Political education, conflict resolution and mediation work across Belfast. In 2019 he was voted [UK Tour Guide of the Year](#).

**[The No.1 Belfast Walking Tour Company | DC Tours \(deadcentretours.com\)](#)**