

Dolls made during phase 2

Gillian Robinson, Northern Ireland

To my amazement I have responded to your invitation to make a doll. It is supposed to be a homeless man. The homeless have been on my mind so much during this pandemic but of course they are also at risk during conflict. The textile that I think this links to is ***No tenemos acceso a los servicios públicos / We have no access to public services.***



My thinking about the homeless was also impacted by the fact that yesterday Tory (my daughter) who is a physiotherapist in England had to go out on an environmental visit to see a flat where a homeless man was going to be sent to. She said *"I have genuinely never seen anything more depressing in all my life – and never felt more privileged!"* With no sewing skills I'm disappointed that I couldn't get more expression on his face. I photographed him outside sitting on an old blanket with no home to go to.



Eva Gonzalez, Northern Ireland

I picked ***POSAR FIL A L'AGULLA / Hands On: An arpillera made out of commitment*** as it depicts daily life. My doll was made some time ago using materials I had/borrowed while far from home. It was not made to depict anyone in particular, just to show I was thinking of my Gran. Especially in times like now, I think the idea of finding happiness and worth in the ordinary everyday is extraordinary, and it shows the strength of people, both as individuals struggling on, and as a community looking out for each other.



Kyra Reynolds, Northern Ireland

My doll was inspired by the arpillera *En el lado "bueno" de la valla 2 / On the "Good" Side of the Fence 2* due to the common themes of displacement and restrictions on movement.

In 2017 I finished my PhD in the Israeli Palestinian conflict, having carried out fieldwork in the region. In 1948, Israeli uprooted Palestinian families from their homes inside what is now 'Israel proper' and most haven't been able to return. Since then, displaced Palestinians have faced ongoing restrictions on their movement including checkpoints, ID policies using outdated laws and walls/fences. Yet during my PhD I discovered that planting olive trees was a major form of resistance by Palestinian people against the occupation. By planting trees, they are 'rooting' themselves in the land and saying, 'I am here to stay'.

This doll laments the loss of her ancestral home in 1948 and the more recent Israeli destruction of her olive trees (which are of major cultural and economic significance to Palestinians). However she has an olive tree sapling that she is about to plant as an act of resistance to the attempted ethnic cleansing.



Rachael Garrett & Evan Marshall, Northern Ireland

I wanted to respond to the *Legacy of Tyrants* arpillera, the theme of genocide and some of the thoughts I had as I made my way around the exhibition at the launch...

We have two dolls joined together, mirror images of each other and with mirror faces.

I went with the mirror theme as I was thinking of how those who persecute and kill try to dehumanise people and often do so by projecting their worst fears and fantasies onto others, while at the same time denying our common humanity. A quote by my favourite author, Terry Pratchett "*Evil begins when you start to treat people as things*", has stuck in my mind since reading it recently.



The two dolls are joined together because I was also thinking (as a general response to the entire exhibition) that most people don't like to think of the suffering and injustice across the world as it's not happening on their doorstep - out of sight out of mind. I think there is a real cost to such violence which everyone feels eventually. In reality we are all connected and we should all try to help and care for others - if we did so things would be better.

Isabel Gonzalez, Colombia

With joy I send this woman made of thread and needle. She connects to **Ausencias - Presencias 2 / Absences – Presences 2**. She could well be me walking and following the mothers and grandmothers around the Plaza de Mayo obelisk, in silence and admiration. On her head she wears a green scarf, which represents the struggle that we - the women in Latin America - are having at present. She walks proudly and recognizes herself as a daughter who has inherited the strength and courage to demand, denounce and request justice under the motto *“Sexual education to decide, contraceptives so as not to abort, legal abortion so as not to die”*.

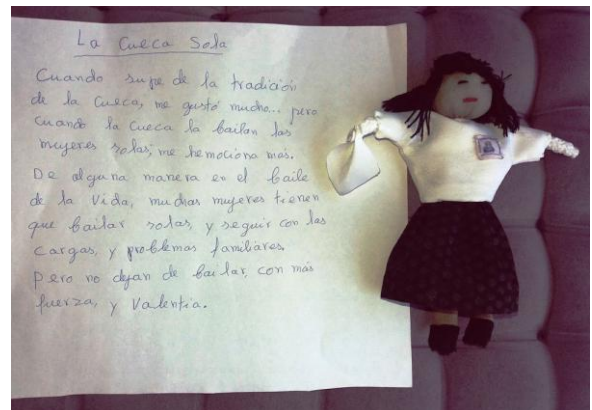


The scarf, today green, represents the struggles of the new generations that do not forget the roots that nourish and inspire them.

Manoli Gonzalez, Badalona, Cataluña

My doll is linked to **La Cueca Solo / Dancing Cueca alone**. When I heard about the tradition of Cueca Solo, I liked it very much. When the women dance it alone, it moves me much more.

In many ways when “dancing” life, many women have to dance alone and carry the burden and family problems. But they do not stop dancing; they dance with more strength and courage.



**Stefania Gualberti, Northern Ireland
(from Italy)**

I made a dreamy woman who looks like she dressed up to go somewhere that she knows won't be able to go to.



Emma Boeri, Northern Ireland

My doll resembles my best friend in school, Sahara. I haven't seen her since mid March, although we talked at the phone twice to catch up.



**Stephania and Emma, mother and
daughter, Northern Ireland**

Here, our two dolls are pictured together. We enjoyed the process and it was quite revealing.

Our dolls link to three arpilleras: **Escuelita de Otavalo / Otavalo Primary School; Irene, Marta, Hilda, Patricia: Ahora y Siempre Presentes / Irene, Marta, Hilda, Patricia: Now and Always Present and Vida en Nuestra Población / Life in Our Poor Neighbourhood.**



**Pilar López , Sant Roc in Badalona,
Cataluña**

My doll is connected to **Peace Quilt - Common Loss**. From the 3161 pieces of torn red scraps of material portrayed in this quilt, at least one has been transformed into a person. I do this so that we do not forget the victims of conflict; the conflict in Northern Ireland and the various conflicts that affect other countries.



Fina Niubó, Sant Roc, Badalona, Cataluña

I have connected my piece to **Libertad a los presos políticos / Freedom for the political prisoners**. There are **political prisoners** in Spain in 2020.

