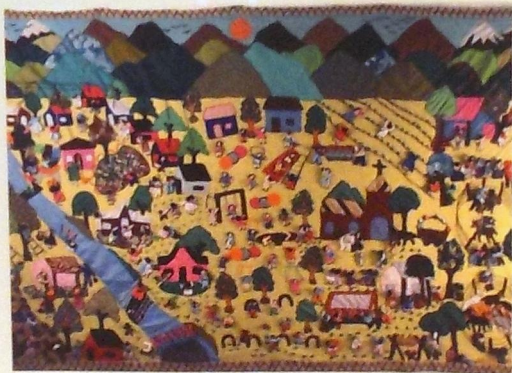


INTERPRETING OUR HISTORY: MUSEUMS AND TEXTILES

Over the years the Tower Museum has worked with a variety of partners on exhibitions and programmes which have focused on the textile industry and the use of textiles as a means of communicating messages.

In 2008 we held the first arpillera exhibition which was part of 'The Art of Survival: International and Irish Quilts' (curated by Roberta Bacic). A collection of textiles from areas of conflict (including Northern Ireland, Afghanistan, Germany and Chile) were displayed across the city. The programme developed into a series of exhibitions addressing conflict and war as experienced by women from across the globe. The collection is now available to view at <https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles/>



Vida en Nuestra Población / Life in Our Poor Neighbourhood Chilean arpillera, Taller Recoleta 1982
Conflict Textiles collection. Provenance Marta and Jürgen Schaffer, Germany. Photo Colin Peck. © Conflict Textiles

In 2012 we commissioned a piece of art, from textile artist Deborah Stockdale, for display in the Guildhall focusing on the exhibition theme, the Ulster Plantation.

In 2013 we worked with artist Rita Duffy in curating an installation at the City Factory building using the museum archives and objects alongside working machinery.

Early in 2020, we celebrated in the Guildhall with the Mayor and local women, the shirt factory heritage. Lockdown resulted in a unique project that enabled the 'Shirt Factory horn' to be sounded weekly. Emerging from the discussions was a record called 'My Granny was a Factory Girl' by Sadie Norris and Roy Arbuckle which is available via YouTube.

If you have items you would like to donate or stories to tell please contact us at collections@derrystrabane.com



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"Every year there was a factory dance and in summer a bus-run usually all around Donegal. I can't say I remember much about the Irish scenery, but we enjoyed the pubs along the way."