

CONFLICT TEXTILES



Workshop “Making an arpillera doll from shirt factory fabric scraps”

16th September 2021

Photo gallery

This workshop took place in the [Fashion & Textile Design Centre](#), (FTDC) Derry / Londonderry. In this space, surrounded by the “Shirts, Singers and Sewing” exhibition, women unwrapped their small bundle of shirt factory scrap materials and made arpillera dolls, with guidance from Roberta Bacic and Breege Doherty. Their dolls represented someone who worked in the shirt factories or a loved one that came to mind.



From scraps of fabric like these the dolls emerged. (Photo: Deirdre Williams)



Roberta, Kyra and Rachel, arranging the fabric pieces. (Photo: Kyra Reynolds)



A selection of other materials used in the workshop; tights, thread and wool.
(Photo: Kyra Reynolds)



The women engrossed in creating their dolls against the backdrop of the exhibition. (Photo: Deirdre Williams)



Shaping the doll's body from tights. (Photo: Kyra Reynolds)



Dressing the doll. (Photo: Kyra Reynolds)



This doll has lots of hair added. (Photo: Kyra Reynolds)



This is Wilson. He repaired the shirt factory sewing machines. His shirt buttons are from the shirt factories. (Photo: Kyra Reynolds)



The finished dolls on display. Each doll was named by its maker. (Photo: Kyra Reynolds)

How the participants described the workshop

Memorable

Enjoyable

Creative

Inspiring

Unforgettable

Calming

Excellent

Brilliant

Speechless

Final reflections from Deirdre Williams, Business Development Manager at FTDC

“Everyone really enjoyed it – the outcome was fantastic! To have the workshop amongst the exhibition – and using shirt factory fabrics was just great – it was lovely to talk to a few of the ladies about their experiences of shirt making in the town and others who have followed a career in textiles.”

Compiled by Breege Doherty
22nd September 2021