



Learning the language of textiles

Roberta Bacic, Conflict Textiles collector and curator in conversation with Brendan Lynn, CAIN

With Breege Doherty, assistant curator and Gillian Robinson, Ulster University

6 October 2021 Online webinar

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cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles
@conflicttextiles
@CAINWebService

What is it?

Unique Cultural Heritage Collection

- Founded 2008
- **Physical collection** of 377 international textiles focusing on elements of conflict and human rights abuses
- **Online Archive/repository** – an associated site on CAIN.
- **Associated Events** (215 to date)
 - Exhibitions/ Tours/ Films/ Workshops/ Participatory activities
- Part of a **transnational network** of individuals/ groups/ organisations/ projects that use, promote, and research the textile language of conflicts.



Textiles

- Originated with Chilean arpilleras – three dimensional textiles
example Where are the disappeared?
- Grown to include textiles from over 40 countries
- And includes NI textiles
example Common Loss
Northern Ireland



Programme Areas

- The Disappeared
- Refugees
- Holocaust
- Human Rights





Link to CAIN and Ulster University

- 2008 established basic archive web site as associated site on CAIN
- 2014 Accounts of the Conflict project includes 10 Conflict Textiles
- 2015 advanced searchable site and archive developed
- 2017 Colloquium at Ulster University Textile Language of Conflicts
- 2020 Installation of permanent rotating exhibition in the Library at Ulster University Magee campus

CONFLICT
TEXTILES





Online Archive

Conflict Textiles website
demonstration

<https://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles/>

Engagement

Networking, Partnership and Respect

- Actively progressing and building recognition / validation of the value and importance of textile language.
- Current priority is to secure the long-term future of the collection (physical and online).



Example

Suitcases: Telling Textile Travels
commissioned by Counterpoint Arts for
Platforma 6

- Tom Green saw us on Twitter
- Interested in the collection and how it was archived and available
- Commissioned exhibition
- Worked in partnership to agree associated activities

https://www.platforma.org.uk/pf_events/suitcases-telling-textile-travels/





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