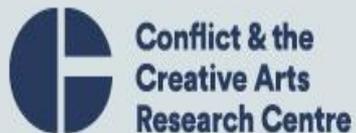
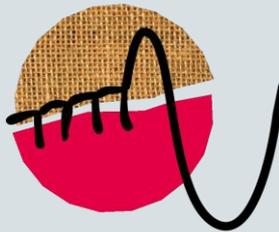


Conflict & the Creative Arts Conference 2021

CONFLICT
TEXTILES



Conflict & the
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Research Centre



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#ConflictCreativity2021

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Conflict Textiles: Threads, Connections, Presence...

Breege Doherty

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Conflict Textiles: Threads, Connections, Presence...

The journey from Chilean arpilleras (1970s) to the present physical collection & online transnational live archive, focused on conflict and human rights abuses

**Breege Doherty, Conflict Textiles
Assistant Curator**

21st October 2021

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Overview

- What is Conflict Textiles?
- Chilean arpilleras: The Pinochet era
- The Northern Ireland connection
- Conflict Textiles online archive
- Programme areas



What is Conflict Textiles?

- 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** (218 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.



Chilean arpilleras: The Pinochet era

- Chilean arpilleras – three dimensional textiles
- Contemporary arpilleras originated in Isla Negra on the Chilean coastline.
- During the Pinochet dictatorship arpilleras were a means of giving voice to the repressed and disenfranchised of Chilean society
- The practice has spread to over 40 countries globally

Bacic (2013) “Arpilleras: Evolution and Revolution”

- [view](#)



The Northern Ireland connection

- [The Art of Survival: International and Irish Quilts](#) exhibition (Derry, 2008)
- New connections and collaborations -museums, arts centres & universities



Conflict Textiles online archive

Timeline and demonstration of archive

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

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

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Programme Areas

- **The Disappeared**
7 minute film [Following the footsteps of the disappeared](#)
- Refugees
- Holocaust
- Human Rights



Current projects - presence

Networking, Partnership and Respect

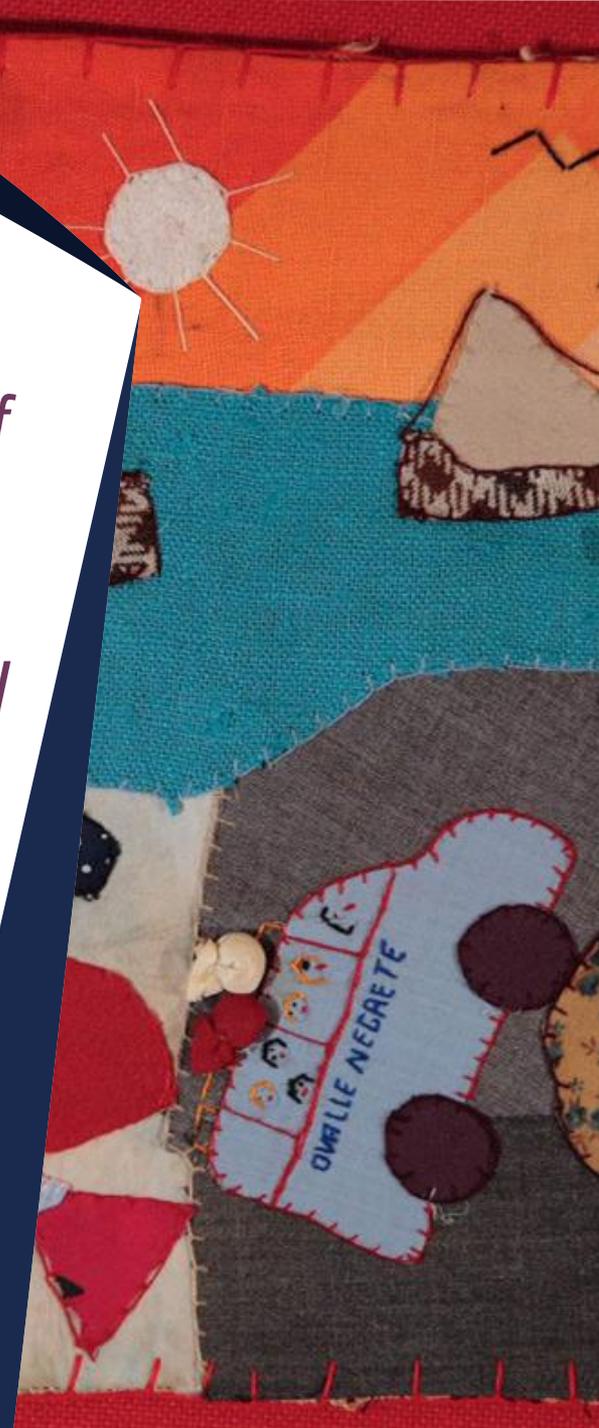
- [Suitcases: Telling Textile Travels /Maletas: Contando Viajes Textiles](#) commissioned by Counterpoint Arts for Plataforma 6
- [Con-textualizando la memoria / Contextualising memory](#) commissioned by Colombian Truth Commission support groups, UK/Ireland, Transitional Justice Inst. UU
- -connected to a broader collaboration with Colombia beginning in
 - 1999 Peace Brigades International
 - 2016 **LA VIDA QUE SE TEJE / LIFE THAT WE SEW**



Finally

“Each stitch assumes the presence of a voice. The women who weaves is the witness who narrates the histories that the military and official cultures deny and contradict”.

Marjorie Agosin (2008) ***Tapestries of Hope, Threads of Love***
The Arpillera Movement in Chile (2nd edition)



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