

‘Threads of Corporate Justice’

Trocaire and Conflict Textiles Project 2022

Threads for Corporate Justice

What to expect in these online workshop:

Introduction March 30th:

Roberta Bacic, originally from Chile, and Conflict Textile’s curator, spoke about **Conflict Textiles** and its background, the Chilean Arpilleras and the arpillera movement, and how arpilleras evolved to be more current, transnational and topical.

If you missed this session or need more information, you can pick up links to Conflict Textiles and a selection of short films for background at:

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

You can search by country of origin, artist, etc. There is a wealth of reference material, and the videos are especially interesting for background orientation to process and topics.

First and subsequent sessions with Deborah Stockdale:

You will have received a small packet with an assortment of fabrics, some needles, pins and thread etc. There will also be a sheet of fabric for backing, and pieces for two dolls. The first session will be going over the rudimentary process of making the dolls. If you think you want more than 2 dolls in your piece, you can use the dolls in the packet as templates to make more, or alternatives will be described. We will do some work on the design principles, how to refine your topic into easily recognisable symbols and visual elements, how to use colours and textures to express elements of your design, and how to achieve and elaborate your topic of choice. You will need some paper and pen or pencil to sketch, or note down your thoughts on your topic, but I will be on hand to help tease out what you are trying to express. The essence of arpilleras is their simplicity, and we will try to refine your design to be expressive and also visually interesting. Don’t worry if you don’t have experience in art or sewing!

Second and third sessions:

Hopefully you will be so excited about making your arpillera you will have done a bit between the sessions, but if not, don’t worry. In these sessions we will refine your designs, fabric placements, people placement, and/or visual messages. If you have fabric scraps from sewing, old clothes to up-cycle, or textiles that have a personal meaning to you, you are welcome to use them in your piece; you do not have to stick with just what is in the packet. The original makers of arpilleras used whatever was at hand. So have a look around the house, or the charity shop and see what you can find that interests you. I will run through some simple embroidery stitches to help with detailing and finishing your piece, and how to make the hair for the dolls, and how to finish the edges appropriately in the last session.

(Note: it is preferable to have all the components stitched onto the piece, glue has unpredictable results in the long term).

Deborah Stockdale [Fabric artist providing expertise in the maintenance and preparations for exhibitions of the Conflict Textiles collection]