

# Transformative Memories in Political Violence

Established in 2019, the Transformative Memory International Network is a collective of scholars, artists, social movement leaders, community-based organisations and policymakers, engaged with the question of what makes memory transformative of legacies of violence, our sense of self and responsibilities to others. Network members are from Colombia, Uganda, Indonesia, Canada and Northern Ireland.

Building on two previous exchanges (Uganda 2019, Colombia, 2020), this year the Network is delivering a MemoLab in Belfast hosted by Ulster University and its partners and collaborators: Healing Through Remembering, Conflict Textiles, the Smashing Times Theatre company, and National Museums NI. This display is presented as part of the MemoLab programme which consists of talks, workshops and performances and is aimed at knowledge exchange and research-creation.

The thematic focus of the MemoLab is *Memory Frictions and Responsibility* and it brings together collaborative artistic works addressing questions of memory frictions and responsibility in societies impacted by political violence and complex transitional processes.

## 1 Torture Chamber/Sala de torturas 1996

by **Violeta Morales**, donated to Conflict Textiles

In this arpillera, Violeta Morales is outspoken about Chile's infamous history of torture, which was long unknown in the wider world. Her piece depicts people being tortured in various ways, portraying them in a dehumanised way with featureless faces, just as torture dehumanises individuals.

*On loan from Conflict Textiles*

## 2 Longing 2017

by **Alit Ambara**

Military units kidnapped numerous pro-democracy activists in Indonesia between 1997 and 1998. 13 activists were missing up to this point. By staging protests in front of the Indonesian state palace in Jakarta, the families of the victims continue to call for justice on their behalf.

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## 3 In Front of the State Palace 2017

by **Alit Ambara**

In front of the state palace, the families of those who perished in May 1998, those who were the victims of enforced disappearances and kidnappings, and those who were the victims of political violence committed during Indonesia's New Order administration continue to call for justice.

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## 4 Legacy of Tyrants/El legado de los tiranos 2018

by **Lisa Raye Garlock**, donated to Conflict Textiles

By 2018, the number of people who died under the 13 most lethal dictatorships of the past 100 years exceeded 1,595,000,000. The skull imagery emerged from “...*news reports of the Rohingya ... and the Yazidi genocide*”; within a global context of repressive regimes.

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