

The role of textile language in global and regional human rights protection

Post seminar outcomes

During a group presentation a week after the seminar, some of the students from the Bachelor with Arts in Human rights, inspired by the seminar, created a textile to honour the memory and the legacy of María Tiu Tojín and her month-old child, Joséfa.

The group was tasked to summarize and present the **IACtHR case 'María Tiu Tojín y Josefa Tiu Tojin v Guatemala'** as a mid-term assignment. On their own initiative, they complemented their presentation with an **art work** that combined the words of the poem **'Immortality' by Clare Harner** and **stiches** recreating the **figures of Maria and Josefa**.

'Immortality' by Clare Harner

Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there. I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow

I am the diamond glints on snow

I am the sunlight on ripened grain

I am the gentle autumn rain

When you awake in mornings hush,

I am the swift uplifting rush

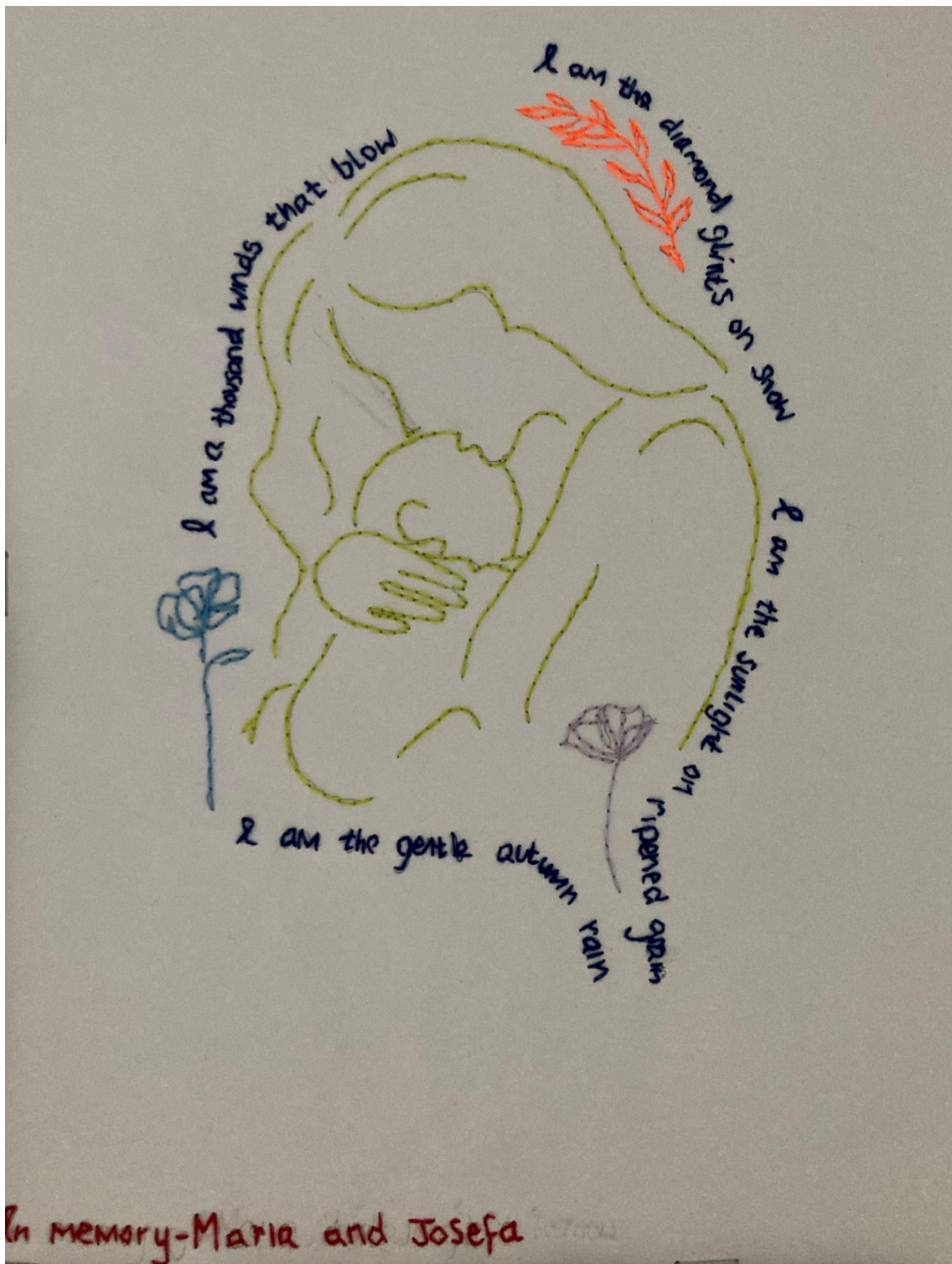
Of quiet birds in circled flight

I am the soft stars that shine at night

Do not stand at my grave and cry

I am not there. I did not die.

Group textile recreating the figures of Maria and Josefa



Credits

The **authorship of the work** is: Samantha Murphie

The presenting group was comprised of: Kelly Lara, O Callaghan Meabh, O Leary Teresa, Powell Eliza and Samantha Murphie

The **words in the work** are from the Poem 'Immortality' by Clare Harner

The **image of 'mother and baby'** used is credited to shutterstock/adobe stock.

The image has been reimagined for the sake of the artwork. The additional stitching of the flora included is original, inspired by line drawings and used in the artwork to draw in connections with the vibrancy of Mayan culture and the symbolism that flowers often have for the Mayan people.

Student reflection

"This poem felt as though it conveyed the message of the textile; to acknowledge and remember the lives of Maria and Josefa and to know that the memory of them remains alive. I am not an artist or seamstress and worried if I could create something that would do justice to the memories of Maria and Josefa. I am so happy that it lived up to its purpose".

Compiled by Breege Doherty based on information / reflections from Beatrice Canossi, Irish Centre for Human Rights, NUI Galway and the presenting students.

24th November 2022