

Threads of Empowerment

Exhibition Transport and Setup

Threads of Empowerment: Conflict Textiles' International Journey exhibition at the Ulster Museum is the culmination of years of collaboration between Conflict Textiles and the museum. The 9-month exhibition in gallery 3 follows collaboration with *The Troubles and Beyond* since 2017 and *Inclusive Global Histories* since 2023. IGH is described by the museum as “Our journey towards decolonisation, diversity and inclusion”.

On December 9th 2022, as we marked **International Human Rights Day 2022: Embracing Human Rights**, Ulster Museum acquired 14 pieces from Conflict Textiles which are now part of their collections.

The journey to gallery 3 started on the 11th May 2023 when UM senior curators Karen Logan (history) and Kim Mawhinney (art) met CT curator Roberta Bacic and Professor Gillian Robinson to view the proposed space. Months of work behind the scenes took place at both ends to make it happen.

A total of 29 transnational pieces, arpilleras and other textiles were agreed and prepared for the display. Deborah Stockdale, CT fabric artist did a condition report of each piece and made sure they were ready for display. The pieces prepared for collection at CT store, were picked up by professional staff from Ulster Museum on 4th June and transported to the museum. Setup occurred between the 12th and 19th June, in time for the preview on the 20th June and opening to the public on the 21st.



Kim Mawhinney (Art Senior Curator UM), Gillian Robinson (Conflict Textiles Associate), Karen Logan (History Senior Curator UM) and Roberta Bacic (Conflict Textiles Curator)
11 May 2023 (Photo Conflict Textiles Archive)

Dismounting and condition check (1st June)



Roberta Bacic and volunteer Amelia Stewart cleaned and secured figurines onto leading Chilean arpillera on the 29th May



Roberta Bacic and Textile Artist Deborah Stockdale checking and storing the textiles



Deborah Stockdale finishing preparation of pieces for transport

Transfer to Ulster Museum staff (4th June)



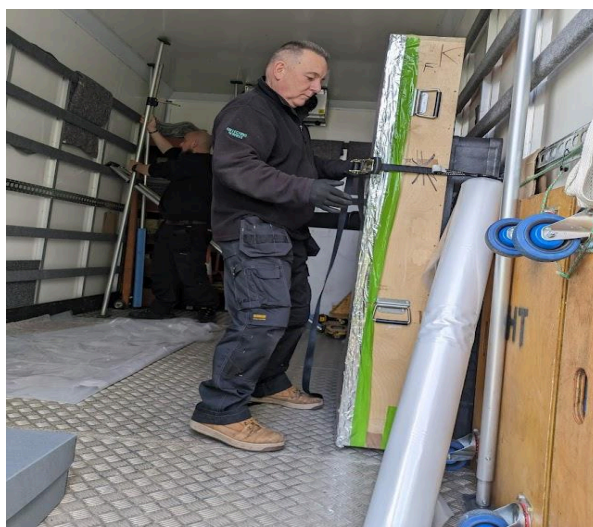
The Ulster Museum moving team



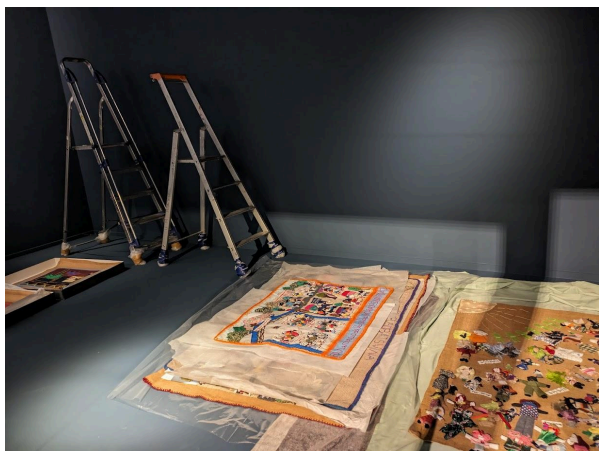
Condition record by Bethany Skuce before textiles are packed



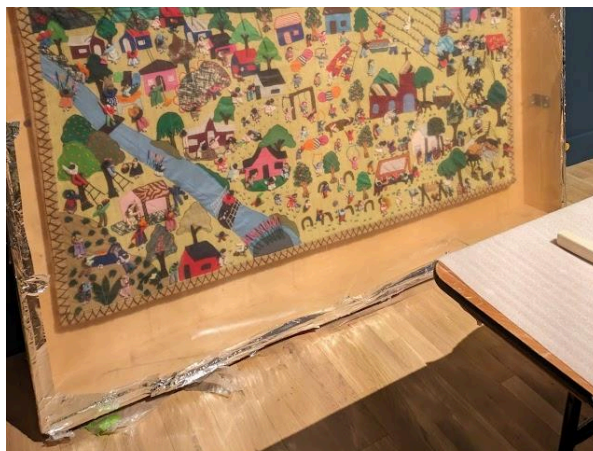
Textiles being carefully loaded into the van and secured to prevent damage



Setup and checks (12th-14th June)



Unloading and spreading out the textiles



Laying out the larger textiles



The major setup done and wooden poles cut to size



Close-ups of the display of the textiles



Setup team making final adjustments and cleaning up

Final touches and Preview (19th-20th June)



Final checks in place



Glass labels being stuck on and lights adjusted



Exhibition ready to open to the public, 20th June 2024 (Photo: Elsie Doolan)

Photogallery prepared by EG, 01/07/2024. Photos from Conflict Textiles archive unless specified otherwise.