

Stitching Solidarity: Activism in Textile Art Symposium



The day we will never forget

In a world that often denies the right to resist, in this symposium scholars, artists, textile-makers and activists will explore the multifaceted ways textiles can serve as a powerful medium for expressing, documenting, and archiving narratives of resistance. This symposium transcends traditional notions of protest and vocal activism, highlighting the quieter, more subtle forms of resistance that emerge through textile-making practices. We are particularly interested in examining how the imagery of a single thread or the accumulation of small, meaningful actions can weave together into a bold tapestry of dissent.

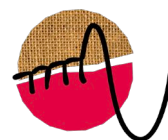
[Conflict Textiles](#) houses a large collection of international textiles, exhibitions, and associated events focusing on conflict and human rights abuses. Conflict Textiles is an Associated Site of [CAIN](#) at Ulster University.

The collection primarily comprises arpilleras, quilts, and wall hangings, emphasising the struggle for the disappeared and other human rights violations. Exhibitions featuring these textiles have been hosted globally in museums, universities, art galleries, embassies, and community spaces.

Currently, Conflict Textiles is holding a major exhibition entitled "[Threads of Empowerment: Conflict Textiles' International Journey](#)" at Ulster Museum (June 21, 2024 – April 27, 2025). The Symposium is part of the programme.

The symposium is organised by staff from Ulster University (INCORE), Belfast School of Art (Ulster University), Queen's University Belfast, Manchester University, University of Galway, University College Cork, the International Association of Women's Museums, and the Conflict Textiles Trust.

Sponsors



Programme queries email b.hamber@ulster.ac.uk or WhatsApp +44 7595087579

Stitching Solidarity: Activism in Textile Art Programme

1-4 March 2024

Saturday, March 01, 2025

Stitching Solidarity on Display (Exhibition)

Belfast School of Art, Ulster University, Birley Building, Ground Floor, February 28th–March 4th 2025

Programme for Derry-Londonderry (1 March 2025)

Various Venues and Ulster University (Derry-Londonderry Campus)

Hosts

Roberta Bacic (Conflict Textiles)

Brandon Hamber (Ulster University/Conflict Textiles)

9:10am	Train from Belfast to Derry	Meeting Grand Central Station 8:45am
11:20am	Meeting Ulster University Professor Malachy O'Neill, Director of Regional Engagement	Meet at station and walk across the Peace Bridge
12:00pm to 13:00pm	Visit to Guildhall: Plantation Quilt and Hume Medals by Bernadette Walsh (Archivist Tower Museum)	Guildhall
	Visit to Tower Museum facilitated by Bernadette Walsh (Archivist Tower Museum)	Tower Museum
13:15pm to 14:00pm	Lunch	Scullery (Next to Ulster University Library, MU Building)
14:00pm to 14:45pm	Visit to Ulster University Conflict Textiles Gallery	Library, Ulster University
15:00pm to 16:00pm	Workshop: Louise McGowan "Women Stitching Resistance: Holding, moving, piercing"	Minor Hall Ulster University
Optional	Walk the City or visit the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) to see URGENCIES	Roberta Bacic to accompany participants
17:38pm	Train to Belfast	Derry-Londonderry Station

Programme for Belfast (1 March 2025)

Ulster University (Belfast Campus)

Host Pamela Whitaker (Ulster University)

16:00pm to 16:15pm	Screening: Tere Chad and Cordelia Rizzo “Woven Hug 2.0”	Ulster University Birley Building Enterprise Hub * Birley Building is located next to The MAC and behind Cathedral Gardens Queries Pamela Whitaker p.whitaker@ulster.ac.uk
16:15pm to 17:15pm	Performance Paper: Saray Sanchez, Jye O'Sullivan & Nora Duggan “Threads of Care: Mourning Through Textiles as Collective Political Action”	
17:15pm to 18:15pm	Paper: Lorna Dillon “The Textiles Turn: Haptic, Embodied and Temporal”	
18:15pm to 19:15pm	Beyond Performance: Bronagh Lawson “Honouring the Women”	

Sunday, March 02, 2025

Ulster Museum

Hosts

Roberta Bacic (Conflict Textiles), Lauren Dempster (for Conflict Textiles Trustees)
and Karen Logan (Ulster Museum)

12:15pm	Meet Ulster Museum Reception
12:30pm to 13:15pm	Roberta Bacic “Tour of Threads of Empowerment” and “The Troubles and Beyond”
13.15pm to 14:00pm	Lunch hosted by Ulster Museum and music by Mary Begley
14.30pm to 15:30pm	Performance: Hollie Miller “Defending Mother Earth”
16:00pm to 16:45pm	QUB Conflict Textiles Gallery Visits and Special Collections

Monday, March 03, 2025

Academic Symposium

Ulster University (Belfast Campus)

All Events BD 01-006

8:30am	Registration
9:00am to 9:20am	Welcome and Introductions
9:20am to 10:20am	Panel 1: Solidarity Chair: Brandon Hamber <ul style="list-style-type: none">Gaby Franger "Listen to the Voices of Women. Embroideries from Afghan Villages"Azadeh Sobout "Threading through witnessing: Palestinian Embroidery as an articulation and embodiment of Indigenous sovereignty"
10:20am to 11:20am	Panel 2: Methodologies Chair: Claire Wright <ul style="list-style-type: none">Esther Pardo Herrero "Which world do you live in? Textile making and social consciousness"Brenda Mondragon Toledo "Crafting a Feminist Self: Politicising Textile Practices as a Feminist Praxis. A Comparative Study of Mexico and Ireland"Lilyana Yazirlioglu "Weaving Solidarity Online: Exploring the Role of Online Stitching Communities in Networking Resistance"
11:20am to 11:35am	Coffee Break
11:35am to 12:35pm	Panel 3: Legacy Chair: Gillian Robinson <ul style="list-style-type: none">Deborah White "Remonstrance, Repeal and Revival: The Gifting of Irish Linen Damask to Daniel O'Connell, 1844"Wendy Wiertz "War Lace. Textile Testimonies of Resistance, Solidarity or Control?"Vasiliki Stasinaki "The Minor Gesture of the Hand: Retelling the Stories of the Exiles on the Islands of the Aegean Sea, Through Their Textile Traditions"

12:35pm to 13:00pm	Open Discussion
13:00pm to 13:45pm	Lunch
13:45pm to 14:45pm	<p>Panel 4: Healing</p> <p>Chair: Pamela Whitaker</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Raye Garlock “Activist Story Cloths and Art Therapy: Images from Art Therapy Graduate Students” • Eileen Harrisson “Textile as Healing Agent and Witness Document”
14:45pm to 15:45pm	<p>Panel 5: Gender</p> <p>Chair: Lauren Dempster</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carolina Espinoza Cartes “Intergenerational transmission of the trauma of exile in the arpilleras” • Claire Flahavan “Grief Vessels: giving voice to experiences of loss due to termination for medical reasons (TFMR)” • Aurore Damoiseaux “We will be soft and woollen and colourful”: Handknitted garments as resistance at Greenham Common Women’s Peace Camp (1981-2000)”
15:45pm to 16:15pm	Open Discussion

Gallery Launch: Ulster University

Ulster University (Belfast Campus)
Library 1st Floor BC Building

16:30pm to 17:00pm	Launch of Nonviolence In Action , Conflict Textiles Exhibition at Ulster University library, Belfast Campus. Launched by Professor Paul Connolly
17:00pm to 18:00pm	Reception (The Atrium, BC Building 3 rd Floor) Hosted by Belfast School of Art (Ulster University)

Performance

BC-03-115A (Near The Atrium)
Ulster University (Belfast Campus)

18:00pm to 20:00pm	Marina Iodice “Through the fabric. Against it.”
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Tuesday, March 04, 2025

Community Workshops, Performance & Public Lecture

Various Venues and Queen's University Belfast (QUB)

10:00am to 11:30am	Lisa Raye Garlock "Finding Peace through Stitching and Stories"	Linen Hall Library Governor's Room Capacity: 15
10:00am to 11:30am	Andrea Dickson "Threads that weave us together"	2 Royal Avenue Capacity: 20
12:00pm to 12:30pm	Gemma McKenzie "Threads of Protest: Human Rights in Childbirth"	Linen Hall Library Governor's Room Capacity: 15
12:00pm to 13:00pm	Pamela Whitaker "A Badge of Honour"	2 Royal Avenue Capacity: 20
12:30pm to 14:00pm	Break	
14:00pm to 16:00pm	Jasmina Ferček "The Activist in Me"	Black Box Projects Black Box Capacity: 10
14:00pm to 15:30pm	Aidan O'Neill "Collaborative Storytelling and Testimony Through Textile and Image: A Workshop on Narratives of the Yezidi Genocide"	QUB Peter Froggatt Centre Room 02/013 Capacity: 30
15:30pm to 17:00pm	Tracy Tsang "End violence against women banner making workshop"	QUB Junction Cafe (Ground Floor, Law School) Capacity: 30
17:00pm to 19:00pm	Performance selina bonelli "texture and materiality in landscapes of matter" Keynote Sharri Eppel "Bones in the Forest: Exhumation and Reburial in Matebeland, Zimbabwe"	QUB Peter Froggatt Centre Room 02/026