

Workshop

Workshop with Heidi Drahota
Ulster Museum, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Belfast Room
24 April 2025

Photo Gallery and Photos by Elsie Doolan, PhD student in the process of finalising her PhD titled "Weaving in Women" which explores the ways in which textile accounts of conflict can function as archival records at University College London.

This workshop served as the closing activity of the Threads of Empowerment exhibition at the Ulster Museum. It provided an opportunity for textile artist Heidi Drahota, who is featured in the Threads of Empowerment exhibition, to engage with the exhibition as a whole and lead a group of intergenerational artists and academics from a range of countries in a textile creation workshop.

The day began with a few words by the organisers, the Ulster Museum and Conflict Textiles, as well as Heidi Drahota. It then proceeded to a group visit to the exhibition. Following the visit to the exhibition, Heidi led a workshop where participants were encouraged to "stitch your inner feeling" onto a piece of felt that Heidi had previously made, and "flow in your inner world of threads of destiny."



Image of curator Roberta Bacic and artist Heidi Drahota during the opening of the event.



Heidi Drahota engaged with her textiles on display and explained to attendees her intentions and how she created each textile.



Heidi Drahota explained her process behind her textile making and what inspires her to create.



Heidi presented the textile she brought for the workshop activity. She then cut the textile into pieces to give each participant a section on which they could create their own “inner feeling.”



Participants stitched and created their "inner feelings" with Heidi's guidance and input.



Heidi spoke in depth about one of her pieces in particular, [Blutspur / Blood Trail](#), once everyone had completed their pieces.



At the end of the session, the group gathered together to share the stories and intentions behind each of the small textiles they had made.



The pieces were then gathered onto a hessian backing and will be stitched together to create a physical representation of the workshop and the collective “threads of destiny” that had been created.