



Arpilleristas y cartoneros / Arpillera women and cardboard collectors, anonymous Chilean Arpillera c.1976

CONFLICT TEXTILES

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slow
memory

CONFLICT
TEXTILES



CONFLICT TEXTILES...

is home to a large collection of international textiles, exhibitions and associated events, all of which focus on elements of conflict and human rights abuses. The physical collection, based in Northern Ireland, is complemented by an online repository hosted by CAIN (Conflict Archive on the INternet) at Ulster University, making the collection **globally accessible**.

The collection encompasses **over 400 documented arpilleras, quilts and wall hangings**. Arpilleras (pronounced 'ar-pee-air-ahs') are at the core of the collection. These hand sewn appliquéd picture textiles came to prominence during the Pinochet regime in Chile (1973-1990). With scraps of fabric, women came together to share and document their memories of violence and repression under dictatorship.

Since 2007, Roberta Bacic, Conflict Textiles curator and visiting professor at Ulster University, has curated **over 200 international textile exhibition programmes**. Two decades since, Conflict Textiles has developed and maintained collaborations with a vast transnational network of arpilleras, textile artists, curators, academics, researchers and followers who engage in our exhibitions, workshops and programmes. As of 2023 the Conflict Textiles Trust is a registered UK charitable organisation.

Through textile, people around the world have communicated their experiences in relation to violence and conflict, human rights violations, forced disappearance, poverty, oppression and environmental issues. The result is **a form of artistic expression and a visual record of personal, poignant testimonies**. Through this powerful medium, Conflict Textiles seeks to encourage the study of textile language and enable difficult conversations.

For additional information, please visit our website at **conflicttextiles.com**