

THE GALLERY

D Contemporary

D Contemporary Gallery is a visionary London-based gallery dedicated to advancing cultural dialogue through ambitious exhibitions, critical artistic projects and international exchange.

Established in the heart of London's prestigious art landscape, the gallery has developed a distinguished reputation for championing innovative, diverse and intellectually engaging contemporary practices, representing a new generation of emerging artists alongside established voices.

With a commitment to nurturing artistic talent and providing a meaningful gateway into the international art world, D Contemporary supports emerging artists by offering a dynamic platform for experimentation, visibility and long-term development. The gallery is dedicated to discovering exceptional artistic voices from across the globe, particularly those from diverse cultural backgrounds and emerging art scenes, bringing fresh perspectives and underrepresented narratives to London's cultural audience.

Through a programme of carefully curated exhibitions, artist-led initiatives and international collaborations, D Contemporary creates connections between artists, collectors, institutions and cultural communities worldwide. The gallery works closely with international partners, embassies, curators and creative organisations to present exhibitions that foster cross-cultural dialogue and expand the reach of contemporary artistic practices.

D Contemporary's mission is to cultivate a vibrant cultural ecosystem where artists are empowered, ideas are challenged and new artistic visions are celebrated.

VISIT

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CONFLICT
TEXTILES



MASON
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CONFLICT TEXTILES × D CONTEMPORARY



AN EXHIBITION

The Silent Vocal Language of Textiles

Memory, conflict and peace through arpilleras, quilts and wall hangings

18 September – 2 October 2026

D Contemporary, 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1H 9JJ

MARKING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF

MASON
HAYES &
CURRAN

Ulster
University

From Derry~Londonderry to the world

Conflict Textiles is an internationally recognised collection of textile art exploring conflict, human rights, memory and resistance through the voices and experiences of communities around the world.

The collection began with *The Art of Survival: International and Irish Quilts*, an exhibition held across nine venues in Derry~Londonderry in 2008. Developed through a collaboration between Derry City Council Heritage and Museum Services, The Junction and guest curator Roberta Bacic, the exhibition brought together Irish quilts, international textiles and Chilean *arpilleras* – three-dimensional textiles created by women in Latin America as a form of testimony during periods of political violence and social upheaval.

Explaining the origins of this initiative, Roberta Bacic reflects:

“During 2006 and 2007 Quaker House Belfast asked me to facilitate a series of meetings with women from different backgrounds to discuss issues related to dealing with the past that had affected their lives. To open the discussions, which some participants found difficult, we decided to show a Peruvian arpillera made by displaced women from both sides of the conflict, who designed and made the arpillera together and used it as their testimony to the Truth Commission. Out of this grew the idea of contacting quilt makers in Ireland and Northern Ireland to see how they had represented the conflict in their work. At the time Helen Quigley, then Mayor of Derry, attended one of the presentations of the Peruvian arpillera and asked me to bring a display of quilts, arpilleras and wall hangings to Derry in the context of International Women’s Day 2008. From that initial idea the Art of Survival exhibition was developed.”

Following the success of *The Art of Survival*, a lasting collaboration developed between Derry City Council’s Tower Museum, Ulster University and Roberta Bacic, leading to further exhibitions, workshops and community engagement projects. Selected works from the collection were displayed at the Tower Museum and the Guildhall between 2015 and 2016.

As the collection and its activities expanded, a digital archive was created, as early as 2008, to document the textiles, exhibitions and associated activities. The Conflict Textiles website went live in 2015, providing global access to this growing archive of textile testimonies. Since then, Conflict Textiles has been presented internationally in museums, galleries and cultural institutions, including Tate Modern, London, where works from the collection featured in a 2020 programme exploring Chilean *arpilleras* as forms of artistic expression, testimony and resistance.

Today, Conflict Textiles continues to preserve and share textile stories from across the world, using art to connect communities, encourage dialogue and highlight experiences of survival, resilience and hope.

THE CURATOR

Roberta Bacic

Conflict Textiles founder, collector and curator · Visiting Professor, Ulster University

Roberta Bacic is a Chilean human rights advocate and researcher. Since 2007, as curator of the international Conflict Textiles collection, she has curated over 300 international exhibitions of arpilleras and associated events in museums, universities, art galleries, embassies and community spaces worldwide. Over time, these exhibitions have expanded from arpilleras of the Pinochet dictatorship era in Chile to include quilts and other textile narratives of loss, resistance, testimony and protest from around the world.

Roberta taught at the Universidad Austral de Chile from 1973 to 1981. From 1982 she worked at the Carlos Anwandter German Institute and San Mateo College, both in Chile. Between 1993 and 1996 she worked for the National Corporation for Reparation and Reconciliation, the successor to the Truth Commission, and during this time also taught human rights at the Catholic University of Temuco. She worked as Programme and Development Officer in London for the UK-based War Resisters’ International between 1998 and 2002, before moving to Northern Ireland in 2004, where she now lives.

More on her work: cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles. CAIN, at Ulster University, holds and documents the Conflict Textiles collection, which currently comprises 440 fully documented textiles.