

Sant Roc, a Diverse Neighbourhood

in the outskirts of Barcelona



These **arpilleras** are the outcome of the communitarian experience: **Arpilleras, Women Sewing Stories**, which took place in the neighbourhood of Fundació Sant Roc, Badalona (outskirts of Barcelona).

Different groups of women carry out a wide range of training activities, culture and leisure throughout the year in the Fundació Ateneu Sant Roc. All these women, belonging to different backgrounds and cultures, live close to each other and share experiences in the neighbourhood as well as within the organization.

In 2008 an Ateneu volunteer discovered the experience of Arpilleras and she proposed holding a workshop involving all groups of women from Ateneu and Sant Roc parish. Women received the idea with interest and in early 2009 four groups started their experience in the Arpilleras' world. This workshop culminated in an exhibition that travelled all around Catalonia.

In November 2010, three women of Sant Roc travelled to Derry/Londonderry to participate at the launch of the exhibition **The Human Cost of War** and visited the Verbal Arts Centre. In that context curator Roberta Bacic proposed the possibility of preparing an exhibition for the Verbal Arts Centre with a selection of the arpilleras made in Sant Roc.

Sant Roc, a Diverse Neighbourhood is the result of this commitment. For the arpilleras and for the Ateneu:

"The arpilleras have enabled us to establish a communicational bridge amongst women of different age, origins and cultural backgrounds. These arpilleras are the stories of memories, dreams and personal experiences. They capture the personal view of the world these women live in."

This selection of arpilleras will be on display at the Verbal Arts Centre from Thursday 14th April until Thursday 16th June 2011. It is part of a continuous series of quilt exhibits curated by Roberta Bacic in Derry/Londonderry, which started on March 8th 2008 and led up to International Women's Day 2009 and beyond.

http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/quilts/exhibit/vac_quilts.html

