

Nuestra Travesía / Our journey.

Mujeres del Mundo-Babel

This is an arpillera made by a group of women called "Mujeres del Mundo-Babel" (Women of the Babel-World), who live in Bilbao, although each of the women were born in different places of the world. They meet regularly as all of them have much to say, to give and they want to share it with each other and beyond.

The project of making this arpillera originated from the interest of one of the women from the group who visited "The Art of Survival: International and Irish Quilts" exhibition in Derry/Londonderry in 2008 and was moved by the power of the textiles, especially the arpilleras. She discovered that arpilleras could be a very effective way to express experiences, a very powerful tool to document history, memory and testimonies.

Later in Bilbao, Esther Vital met the rest of the group and thought that sharing this experience with the others could have a very positive outcome. She proposed to facilitate a workshop in one of their Monday assembly meetings and some of them were interested. They had a great motivation to make an arpillera, as they had much to say, and much they wanted to document on the history of their ten years of journey together.

"With this arpillera we don't pretend to change the world, we just want to put on record our own history, being ourselves the authors and commanders of our lives, weaving our relationships, our dreams and spreading our messages to the universe."

This arpillera-quilt will be on display at the Verbal Arts Centre from Wednesday 19th January until Monday 28th February 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.

