

Mission Hall Quilters *Friendship through Quilting* Patchwork and Embroidery Quilt is currently on display at the Verbal Arts Centre*.

This 2,39 x 2,74 cm quilt was designed and created by a group of women from Derry / Londonderry who met through Mission Hall Quilts after taking part in a class through The Calico Project. After hearing about the Art of Survival Exhibition coming to the city they decided they wanted to become part of this exhibition and create a quilt to display. After several meetings and discussions the women agreed that they wanted to focus on how friendships have formed through the love and art of quilting.

All of the participants had different thoughts and ideas on this particular topic. For example, some women focused upon the quilting aspect of friendship by incorporating patchwork blocks, whereas others decided to create blocks which represented the city such as an oak leaves and statues.

Each corner block of the quilt contains a friendship star, which is a well-known block to quilters world-wide. These blocks were used to illustrate each woman's passion for patchwork and the friendships which are formed behind the quilts.

While making the quilt many women formed relationships and swapped tips on patch working techniques and skills. When the blocks were put together the quilt was then sent to be professionally quilted as it will last for many years and be a part of Mission Hall Quilts.

Mission Hall Quilters' "*Friendship through Quilting*" was part of "*The Art Of Survival: International and Irish Quilts*" a major exhibition comprising 71 pieces shown between March 8th and April 19th 2008 to mark International Women's Day and the tenth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

This quilt was hanging at the Workhouse Museum as part of a trail of quilts around the city, under the auspices of Derry City Council Heritage & Museum Service. Partner organisations were - The Junction, Verbal Arts Centre, Void Gallery, Diocesan Centre, The Playhouse and The Museum of Free Derry. Guest Curator to this whole exhibition is **Roberta Bacic**, Chilean, living in Ireland.

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