

Enduring Life: Arpillera Voices Children's Workshop Thursday May 19th 2016

Alley Arts & Conference Centre, Strabane, Northern Ireland

Facilitated by Jan Gijsemans, intern with the Tower Museum, Derry City and Strabane District Council

In this workshop children between the age of 11 and 13 from St. Mary's Primary School from Strabane were asked to help make arpillera dolls. The figurine was already stitched in advance, so they had to dress the doll up by whatever means they wanted to. They had scraps, wool, markers, scissors and pins at hand and had to bear in mind the dolls they had seen in the exhibition.

By doing this they were free to depict whomever they would like to, but afterwards they had to tell who they depicted, why they depicted them and what the title of their little piece of art would be and why they had chosen that title. In connection with the arpilleras they had to put their notes into a little envelope. This made them think really hard, since it was no easy matter for them.

The result was a beautiful mix of all kinds of figurines with a lot of stories behind it. Doing this workshop surrounded by the arpilleras they got really inspired. Afterwards the clothes were stitched onto the figurines and the children would be invited to come and take a look at them with their family, friends or school to see their work on display.

To find out more please contact the Tower Museum at:

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Workshop process (Photos: Ronan Mc Connell)



