

CONFLICT TEXTILES



Stitched Voices of Resistance

Planning meetings in Aberystwyth 21st – 22nd June

Tuesday 21st June

The historic coastal town of Aberystwyth in West Wales, colloquially known as Aber, was the setting for our planning meetings regarding the 2017 exhibition **Stitched Voices of Resistance**. After Berit picked up at the station in her trusty 26 year old car we proceeded to her office in the Department of International Politics / Adran Gweidyddiaeth Rhyngwladol in Aberystwyth University / Prifysgol Aberystwyth. There we met Danielle, Lydia and Christine, enthused, engaged PhD students who are part of the exhibition team.

First of all we reviewed the textiles and memorabilia committed at present for the exhibition:

- 12 textiles from Conflict Textiles collection brought by Roberta
- Embroidered Mexican handkerchiefs sourced by Danielle
- Banners by local Peace Activists

Later we met local Welsh textile artist Becky Knight, in her studio in the University campus and explored Becky's contribution to the exhibition.



**Becky Knight (far left), viewing a quilt from the Conflict Textiles collection.
(Photo: Danielle House)**

Wednesday 22nd June

After a quick team meeting we visited the exhibition space, Gallery 1, Aberystwyth Arts Centre and met curator Jill Piercy and her assistant to get a sense of how the space might be used for the exhibition.



Exploring the possibilities for using the exhibition space. (Photo: Berit Bliesemann de Guevara)

At our concluding team meeting we discussed options for an associated programme of activities and agreed a series of next steps.

Finally, we visited Eileen Harrisson from Northern Ireland, PhD student at the School of Arts, Aberystwyth University and viewed some of her work. Eileen will contribute one of her pieces on “The Troubles” to be displayed in this exhibition.



Eileen Harrisson (seated, bottom right) in conversation with curator Roberta Bacic at the School of Arts, Aberystwyth University. (Photo: Berit Bliesemann de Guevara)

Outcome

We now have a more concrete list of textiles and memorabilia; a clear sense of the exhibition space and what is possible in terms of exhibiting the pieces and a greater clarity on the programme of associated activities.

Of equal, if not greater, importance is the time we spent together, making connections, sharing ideas and building relationships with this dynamic team; working towards our common goal - **Stitched Voices of Resistance**

Breege Doherty
24th June 2016