

CONFLICT TEXTILES



Arpillera study visit Santiago de Chile, 6th to 13th September 2016

Participants:

*Tomoko Sakai, associate professor at Tohoku Gakuin University, Japan and commissioner of **Stitching Memoryscape 2017**

*Roberta Bacic, Chilean Conflict Textiles collector and curator residing in Northern Ireland
<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles/>

*Marina Vinyes Albes, PhD candidate on arpilleras at *Civilisations, Cultures, Littératures et Sociétés* at Paris-Sorbonne University, by special invitation



Marina, Tomoko and Roberta, 10th September, Santiago. (Photo: Nicole Drouilly)

Concept:

Given the longstanding relationship between Tomoko and Roberta which was expressed via an arpilleras exhibition- **Stitching Resistance - Narratives of Daily Life in Chilean Arpilleras** - in Osaka in 2010;

<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/search-quilts/fullevent/?id=14>

the visit by both in February 2013 to Oshima Hakko Museum to assist on site with the documentation and classification of a set of 88 Chilean arpilleras formerly held in storage by the museum,

<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/search-quilts/fullevent/?id=116> which materialized in an exhibition **Meeting Chilean Arpilleras** that took place from May to October 2013

<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/search-quilts/fullevent/?id=119>, which lead in November 2015 to the exhibition **Arpillera: Chilean appliques that narrate in silence**

<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/search-quilts/fullevent/?id=145>

it seemed timely and fundamental to do a study visit to Santiago de Chile to immerse in the arpilleras world.

Tuesday 6th

Visit to Museo de la Memoria y los Derechos Humanos

<http://ww3.museodelamemoria.cl/>

Viewed permanent rotating exhibition on the 3rd floor and present exhibition: “**Relatos de Dolor y Esperanza**” launched on the 30th August to mark International Day of the Disappeared. It includes works from 1978 to 2008 made in Chile and beyond.

<http://ww3.museodelamemoria.cl/exposiciones/relatos-de-dolor-y-esperanza/>

Met Verónica Sánchez Ulloa, responsible for conservation and restoration of the arpilleras



Arpillera on exhibit, image taken from museum's public photo gallery

Wednesday 7th

Visit of **Fundación Cristo Vive** in Recoleta which has had a long tradition in arpillera making as a source of income and empowerment of women affected by poverty and political repression during the dictatorship. The arpilleras are one of the many social aspects the organization has embraced.

www.fundacioncristovive.cl

On site there was an in depth conversation with Sister Karoline Mayer, Director, and Annkathrin Erk, in charge of communications and fundraising.

Meeting made possible by Angélica Ponce and Néstor Dossow long standing friends and “compañeros” of Roberta's.



Tomoko and Karoline looking at archival materials with background arpillera. (Photo: Marina)

7th evening

Attendance to *Música de Resistencia* concert in Población Lo Hermida

<http://www.lahora.cl/2016/08/concierto-busca-rescate-la-memoria-colectiva/>



Violeta Zúñiga and Marta Pérez Cueca Sola dancers at the concert. , (Photo: Marina)

Thursday 8th

Visit to Museo de la Solidaridad Salvador Allende

<http://www.mssa.cl/>

Visit of permanent exhibition and conversation with Federico Brega, archivist, who narrated the history of the museum and nature of the museum's collections.

We viewed the exhibition *Poco se gana hilando, pero menos mirando* (Little you earn weaving, less just looking). Textile artist Gutiérrez with whom we had an in depth conversation states her work explores and appropriates manual textile crafts with which she represents periphery landscapes of Santiago.

<http://www.mssa.cl/exposicion/poco-se-gana-hilando-pero-menos-mirando-claudia-gutierrez/>



One of her pieces on exhibit. image taken from museum's public photo gallery

Thursday 8th afternoon

Visit from arpilleristas María Madariaga and Patricia Hidalgo arpilleristas of Lo Hermida. They have had many years involvement with the arpillera making tradition and still run workshops at present as well as make arpilleras. Conflict Textiles has one of their pieces which was part of 2016's exhibition in Colombia.

Marina will attend in one of their workshops during September.



María, Tomoko and Patricia while visiting us. (Photo: Marina)

Brief interview to the arpilleristas in 2012 (Spanish)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DloPYIKqNJ4>

Friday 9th

Morning meeting between Tomoko and Roberta to discuss and plan *Stitching Memoryscape* exhibition

<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/search-quilts/fullevent/?id=162>

In the afternoon we visited arpillerista Aurora Ortiz who has been active in the arpillera making and community activities since 1976. Her mother in law Beatriz Sepúlveda was also in attendance and shared her experiences around social issues in the community.

Guided by Aurora Ortiz we visited Museo Cielo Abierto which portrays in the open air murals on the flats. It is placed in Comuna de San Miguel.

<http://www.museoacieloabiertoensanmiguel.cl/>



Aurora, Roberta & Tomoko at Museo Cielo Abierto (museum open sky), (Photo: Marina)



Aurora and her new arpilleras. (Photo: Marina)

Saturday 10th

In depth interview with Nicole Drouilly, visiting area in which we resided and free time

Sunday 11th (Marking 43 years since the Military Cue)

Visit Villa Francia

Lunch with local family, visit to Memorial de Villa Francia which remembers their 11 victims

https://es.wikipedia.org/wiki/Memorial_en_Villa_Francia

Visit to local murals, conversations with local residents and attending Mass that marks 43 years since the military cue



Team in front of chapel from where procession started. (Photo: Gaby Dossow)



Procession from chapel to Memorial Villa Francia where 11th September mass took place, photo Tomoko Sakai



Homage Sunday 11 September mass by Father Mario Puga, (Photo: Tomoko)

Monday 12th

Morning: work on upcoming 2017 exhibition

2 PM visited FASIC (Fondo de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas) and visit **40 Years of History** permanent exhibition that includes arpilleras.

<http://fasic.cl/wp/2016/09/inauguracion-de-exposicion-40-anos-de-historia/>

Late evening wrapping up, discussing follow up, timelines, settle phone conferences, etc. Getting ready for departure.

19th September 2016