



## LA VIDA QUE SE TEJE /LIFE THAT WE SEW Final report, 30<sup>th</sup> December 2016

It is empowering to be able to write this report looking at the achieved goals the project had from its start. This is what it set out to do at the time we planned the exhibition and associated activities.

<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles/search-quilts/fullevent/?id=153>

*Long term the aim is to establish in public spaces a series of textile narratives which have aesthetic, ethical and political strength. It is anticipated that their manner of display will foster dialogue and increase the strength of the textile narrative offering a common space for collectives of sewers, not only made at local and national levels, but also in other parts of Latin America. Ultimately we want to strengthen the National Network of Sewers of Life and memory. An invitation has been extended to groups around the country to participate in the making of small arpilleras that will make up an overall piece which will be used on International Human Rights day (10th December, 2016) to state publicly in Bogota their demands of Peace, Justice and Reparation.*

It is relevant to acknowledge the steady, persistent, dedicated and solid work done by all stakeholders and also highlight the interconnectedness amongst them. The involvement went beyond the 4 partners who set the tone. It is also very significant that different actors from society have joined. Their voices have been validated and their claims made visible.

The exhibition time was extended and it went from 11<sup>th</sup> May until 10<sup>th</sup> July 2016. It had very good attendance and several associated activities took place while it was on and continued after that.

*Life that We Sew* included 85 pieces in total, being 20 from *Conflict Textiles* which brought in the Latin American dimension. From a curatorial point of view, Chilean arpilleras were at the core and incorporated other narratives of conflict from the region.

As planned in advance the exhibited pieces were looked after from the time the exhibit finished until collection by Museo de Antioquia's textile storehouse. On the 1st of December the curator collected the pieces and a professional condition report was signed by the registrar, director of the museum, academic Isabel Gonzalez and myself after carefully looking at each piece and then packed away ready to travel back to Northern Ireland.

In addition to this fundamental and necessary administrative activity a public seminar and discussion took place at Universidad de Antioquia on the 1<sup>st</sup> December from 2 to 5 PM. The topic: ***PRESERVACIÓN Y USO DE TEJIDOS TESTIMONIALES CON FINES EXPOSITIVOS Y DE MEMORIA/ PRESERVATION OF TESTIMONIAL TEXTILES FOR EXHIBITING AND MEMORY PURPOSES***

# CONVERSATORIO

PRESERVACIÓN Y USO DE TEJIDOS TESTIMONIALES CON FINES EXPOSITIVOS Y DE MEMORIA

**Invitadas:**  
**Roberta Bacic**  
 Curadora y responsable de la colección Conflict Textiles - Conflict Archive Ulster University, Northern Ireland.  
**Sandra Patricia Arenas Grisales**  
 Docente e investigadora Escuela de Bibliotecología U de A  
**Natalia Quiceno**  
 Docente e investigadora INER U de A

Fecha:  
 diciembre 1 de 2016  
 Hora:  
 2:00 - 5 :00 pm  
 Lugar:  
 Aula 212 Paraninfo Universidad de Antioquia - Plazuela San Ignacio

Organiza:  
 Universidad de Antioquia - Vicerrectoría de Extensión - Banco Universitario de Programas y Proyectos de Extensión BUPPE - Facultad de Enfermería - Asociación Campesina de Antioquia ACA - Red Nacional de Tejedoras por la Memoria y la Vida .

Apoyan:  
 Conflict Textiles - Instituto de estudios regionales INER U de A - Escuela de Bibliotecología U de A.

UNIVERSIDAD DE ANTIOQUIA Vicerrectoría de Extensión  
 UNIVERSIDAD DE ANTIOQUIA Facultad de Enfermería  
 ASOCIACIÓN CAMPESINA DE ANTIOQUIA

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December activities took places in Bogota.

**CONVERSATORIO/CÍRCULO DE LA PALABRA**  
**LA FUNCIÓN DEL TEJIDO EN LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DE PAZ**  
**TEJIDO, MEMORIA(S), JUSTICIA Y DERECHOS HUMANOS / THE ROLE OF TEXTILES**  
**IN PEACE BUILDING, MEMORY AND HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

**Keynote speaker Roberta Bacic**

**FECHA: DICIEMBRE 2 DE 2016**

**HORA: 2:00 a 5: 00 PM**

**LUGAR: Auditorio 104, Edificio De Sociología - Universidad De Nacional de Colombia**

**Saturday 3rd December** groups from different COSTUREROS / Sewing Groups worked collectively in Centro de Memoria in preparation to the public event that took place on **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December**. Its goal was to surround the Palace of Justice with 400 + meters of textiles under the motto **La Memoria Envuelve la Justicia / Memory Enwraps Justice**

This was a very powerful and unforgettable experience that goes beyond words as it entailed complex preparations, dedication, coordination, good will and funding to get people and groups from different regions to come to the capital. A real NONVIOLENT resistance initiative that put in the public domain the plight of the surviving relatives of the victims of the 50 years of the Colombian war.

This is as it was reported by mayor media, just to mention a few  
<http://www.efe.com/efe/america/sociedad/victimas-de-la-violencia-en-colombia-elaboran-un-telar-400-metros-largo/20000013-3116104>

<http://www.elespectador.com/noticias/judicial/historia-del-tejido-envolvio-el-palacio-de-justicia-articulo-668883>

<http://www.elnuevoherald.com/noticias/mundo/america-latina/colombia-es/article118861948.html>



Curator Roberta Bacic participating in the public activity on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December

**Follow up post closing events and guidelines to new ventures. See program of the full exhibition on**

[http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/mediafiles/764\\_Life%20that%20we%20Sew%20program.pdf](http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/mediafiles/764_Life%20that%20we%20Sew%20program.pdf)

### **Textiles to come to participate in upcoming exhibitions**

1. At the opening event in May met with Ursula Holzapfel from *Diócesis de Quibdó* and collaboration has materialized in 2 textiles entering Conflict Textiles collection. One will be part of *Stitched Voices* exhibition in Wales from March – May 2017.  
<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/search-quilts/fullevent/?id=157>  
The pieces is called *Long wait of the mourning women*  
<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/search-quilts/fulltextiles/?id=382> which will be presented as an installation alongside *Runaway slave* by *Mujeres tejiendo sueños y sabores de paz* from Colombia that has been part of the collection since 2010.  
<http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflictextiles/search-quilts/fulltextiles/?id=269>
2. A second poignant piece has reached Northern Ireland and it is in the process of being documented to enter a future 2017 exhibition *Our victims of 2nd May 2002 Bellavista – Bojayá – Chocó*
3. Conversations have taken place with Beatriz Arias and Isabel Gonzalez, who are at the very heart of the adventure, so as to include in future exhibits a piece from the network that emerged from their initial project *Memory Textiles and Mental Health*

### **Collaboration with journalists and people linked to the project**

Article appeared in El Colombiano after interview with journalist Mariana Escobar in the context of marking 10 years since General Pinochet's death.  
<http://www.elcolombiano.com/internacional/america-latina/tras-10-anos-de-su-muerte-pinochet-aun-divide-a-chile-CN5539422>

### **Future Ventures**

In the coming months we expect to move forward initiatives that will develop as follow up of this project. Collaboration is central  
Special thanks to Beatriz Arias and Isabel González for inviting me to be part of this project and their efforts to keep it going.