



**Left**  
 Title of the Piece: It's No \*\*\*\*\* Computer Game  
 Maker and Year: Thalia and Ian Campbell, 2012  
 Owner: Thalia and Ian Campbell Collection  
 Copyright of the Image: © Lydia Cole

**Right**  
 Maker and Year: Fuentes Rojas (Project: Bordando por la Paz y la Memoria in Coyoacán, Mexico City), 2016  
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## Stitched Voices: An Exhibition of Textile Resistance in Aberystwyth and the World

By Lydia Cole

**R**oberta Bacic (curator) and Breege Doherty (co-curator) capture the importance of the pieces displayed in the upcoming 'Stitched Voices' exhibition at the Art Centre:

*"The story behind each piece within the . . . collection is narrated*

*by the textile artist or arpillerista. With fabric, needle and thread, she draws us into, and invites us to inhabit, her issue, her world."*

Traditional crafts such as quilting, embroidery, knitting and weaving are put to use in resisting injustice and oppression, or in remembering the dead and disappeared in situations of violent conflict and authoritarianism. Importantly, these textiles aim to tell the story of ordinary people caught up in the everyday challenges of life in discord.

Coordinated by researchers of the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University, the exhibition brings together a collection of such textiles from several countries including Wales, Northern Ireland, Mexico, and Chile. Over the years, Roberta's collection of 'Conflict Textiles' has expanded from Chilean arpilleras sewed during and after the Chilean dictatorship (1973-90), to quilts thematising the troubles and the peace process in Northern Ireland, and depictions of the repercussions of the armed conflict in Colombia.

Welsh solidarity and activism is represented in the form of protest banners, including 'It's No \*\*\*\*\*

Computer Game!' created by peace activists Thalia and Ian Campbell, provoking important questions about the role of technology in contemporary warfare. And from Mexico, embroidered Mexican handkerchiefs, created as part of the 'Embroidering for Peace' movement, express both local resistance to the current violence and impunity in Mexico and solidarity of people around the world with the victims of this violence.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of events including talks by artists, textile and embroidery workshops and roundtable discussions. In collaboration with the Wales One World film festival, there will be a stream of films - 'Voices of Resistance' - which explore issues raised in the textiles.

Part of the People's Stories season, Stitched Voices will be on display in Gallery 1, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Saturday 25th March – Saturday 13th May 2017.

For more information:  
 Aberystwyth Arts Centre: <http://www.aberystwythartscentre.co.uk/exhibitions/stitched-voices>  
 Follow us on Twitter - @StitchedVoices