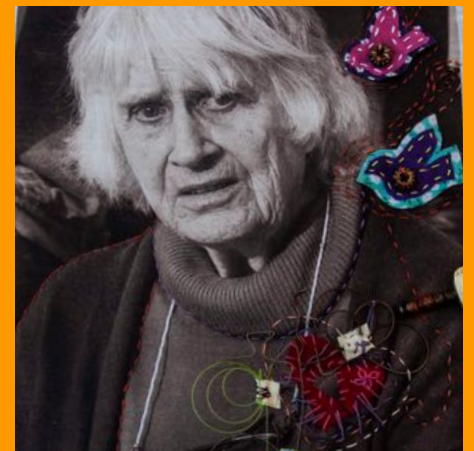
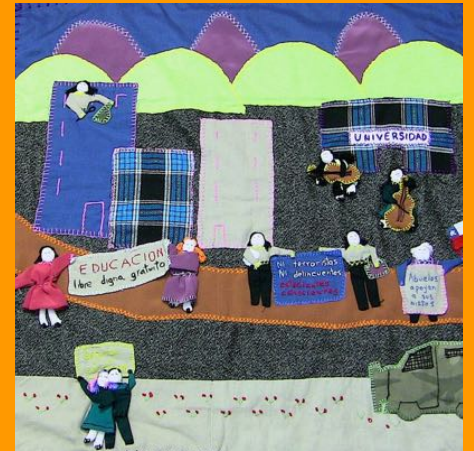


14-15 SEPTEMBER 2017,
LONDON, UK.

arpilleras

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

SEMINAR, DISPLAY AND WORKSHOPS



Arpilleras are three-dimensional appliquéd tapestries of Latin America that originated in Chile. The backing of strong hessian, "arpillera" in Spanish, became the name for this particular type of hand sewn picture. Empty potato or flour bags have often been used for the backing, and this has given them their typical size – a quarter or a sixth of a bag.

At times cloth figures were made separately and, with other little memorabilia, they started to be sewn onto these cuadros (pictures) which gives

them a three dimensional effect and a special personalized quality.

Arpilleras became popular when groups of women during Pinochet's dictatorship in Chile were creating these pieces as a form of political and artistic language that allowed them to give testimony, work in community and hence get empowered; today they are valuable insights into the memory of those times and how they shape our present. These textiles also served as a way of coping with the

atrocities and human rights violations that they, their families and society were suffering. This technique has spread widely and can be seen as a narrative tool of political resistance, protest, testimony, archive, and human rights protection in many countries.

The seminar will bring together academics and practitioners with expertise on arpilleras. At the seminar speakers will discuss their work in connection with Conflict Textiles collection, and their archival relevance. The seminar will also highlight the arpillera technique and practice to bring to the fore contemporary political issues and to promote human rights.

There will be a display of key pieces from Conflict Textiles collection (collected and curated by

Roberta Bacic) and from the Chilean arpilleras' group Memorarte – Stitches against oblivion- on the 15th September.

The pieces from the Conflict Textiles span from the dictatorship to present struggles in Chile and beyond. Memorarte collection includes thirteen contemporary pieces, ten of these about memory of violence during the dictatorship, and three bigger size collective pieces.

On the 15th Memorarte will be facilitating two workshops (materials included) for those wanting to make arpilleras from 14:00 and 16:00 hrs. Spaces are limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis.

SEMINAR ARPILLERAS, YESTERDAY AND TODAY

Thursday 14 September 2017 at 18:00 hrs.

Location: London School of Economics,
St Clements Building, room STC 219
"The Mackenzie Room" (see directions on
additional information sheet)

SPEAKERS

Roberta Bacic "Arpilleras in the
Conflict Textiles collection"

Elsie Doolan "Arpilleras as Archives:
The Archival Importance of
Textile Memories"

Erika Silva "Memorarte, stitching
to influence"

DISPLAY MEMORARTE "STITCHES AGAINST OBLIVION"

Friday 15 September 2017 12:00 until
18:30 hrs.

Location: London School of Economics,
St Clements Building, room STC 219
"The Mackenzie Room" (see directions
below)

CREDITS

1. "¿Dónde están?" / "Where are they?" | Chilean arpillera, 1980 | Provenance: Theresa Wolfwood, Canada | Photo: Martin Melaugh, © Conflict Textiles.
2. "Libertad a los presos políticos" / "Freedom for the political prisoners" | Chilean arpillera, 1985 | Provenance Kinderhilfe arpillera collection, Chile/Bonn | Photo: Martin Melaugh © Conflict Textiles.
3. "Paro de los estudiantes chilenos 2" / "Chilean students's strike 2" | Republic of Ireland, 2012 | by Pamela Luque | Photo: Rory Mc Carron © Conflict Textiles.
4. "AUSENCIAS-PRESENCIAS Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo" / "Grandmothers of Plaza de Mayo" | Argentina, 2014 | by Ana Zlatkes and Mirta Zak | Photo: Ana Zlatkes © Conflict Textiles.
5. "Paloma ausente" / "Dove absent" | Chilean arpillera, 2016 | Provenance: Memorarte, Chile | Photo: Catalina Larrere
6. "Reparación" / "Repairaction" | Chilean arpillera, 2016 | Provenance: Memorarte, Chile | Photo: Carlos Candia

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BRIEF CVs OF SPEAKERS

Roberta Bacic is a Chilean Human Rights advocate and researcher who since 2007 has curated more than 100 international textile exhibitions and associated events. Over time, these exhibitions have expanded from arpilleras from Pinochet's Chile to include quilts and other textile narratives of loss, resistance, testimony, protest and healing from around the world. You can access her work on <http://cain.ulster.ac.uk/conflicttextiles/> at CAIN, Ulster University, which holds and documents her CONFLICT TEXTILES collection. She resides in Northern Ireland.

Elsie Doolan is an MPhil/PhD student in the Department of Information Studies at UCL. Her research focuses on the ways in which the inclusion of textiles as archival records can democratize archived collections and begin to fill silences in the archives. This research is centred on the Conflict Textiles collection. Doolan explores in particular arpilleras as evidence for the archival validity of textiles.

Erika Silva Urbano (MSc in Government and Public Management) is a Chilean educator, embroiderer, and has been the Director of Memorarte for the past 5 years. Memorarte was created 5 years ago, after a workshop at the Museum of Memory and Human Rights in Santiago, facilitated by Patricia Hidalgo and Maria González. Memorarte's aim is to promote the craft of arpilleras' embroiderers by creating collaborative pieces to protect economic, social and cultural rights. An important part of this task is to recover the memory of those excluded and left behind in society. The focus of Memorarte's work is not only to create arpilleras and to conduct workshops; it is also about taking arpilleras out to the public sphere (protests, festivals, encounters, etc) and to disseminate their work in social media. They see this as the only way to give the message we want to convey a sense of publicity. <http://memorartearpillerasurbanas.blogspot.co.uk/>

DIRECTIONS

Seminar and Display location: London School of Economics, St Clements Building, room STC 219 "The Mackenzie Room". Nearest tube station: Holborn. Entrance from Kingsway through Portugal street and building entrance (STC in the map) is on St Clement's Lane (see blue arrow in the map below).

