

# CONFLICT TEXTILES

## War-Torn Children exhibition

Limerick, 17th to 28th July 2017

### Associated activities 1st week

The exhibition was commissioned by Doras Luimní in collaboration with a wide number of organizations. The set-up team worked all day in preparation for the launch that took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in the CB1 Gallery.

**The launch** was very well attended by people from all roads of life.



The mayor, CLLR of the City and County of Limerick, Stephen Keary said in his address:

*“The display of textiles, photographs and posters highlighting the devastating impact of war is very powerful and crucial in expanding our understanding of what is happening and our attempts to end the conflicts. . . .”*





Pamela Luque, arpillerista from Chile sang two songs that make direct reference to life in Chile. She sang ***Gracias a la Vida*** by Violeta Parra and ***Manifiesto*** by Victor Jara. Parra was a Chilean composer, songwriter, folklorist, ethnomusicologist and visual artist who pioneered the "Chilean New Song" and embroidered arpilleras. This year marks the centenary of her birth. Jara's song Manifiesto (1974) is a song from his unfinished album that he worked on before his detention and subsequent murder by the military in 1973.

The Chilean Ambassador in Dublin, Cristián Streeter, sent a greetings letter that was read at the opening. He wrote: ***We invite you to enjoy the arpilleras which make part of this exhibition, bearing in mind that they are more than "naïf" artistic expressions, and should be considered an important means of conveying a special message relevant to these present times, which aim to place human rights as the fundamental principles guiding the international community and our societies. . .***

## Tuesday 18th arpilleras workshop

Curator of the exhibition Roberta Bacic gave an in depth guided tour to the exhibition highlighting the context under which the arpilleras, the photos and the posters were created.

There was full attendance to this workshop that also gave the participants the possibility to experience the way the arpillera dolls are made and grasp how they personalize the characters they represent. A highlight of the workshop was the moment in which each participant chose a doll made in previous workshops of other exhibitions and adhered it to a piece that connected them most to the refugees. They will stay on the pieces until the end of the exhibition on Friday 28th.





## Iraq since the 2013 USA invasion

### Friday 21st July - Illustrated talk by Hashim Ahhadeedy

John Lannon who has been the lead person of the exhibition in Limerick and has coordinated the associated program has said when referring to the event:

*Hashim Alhadeedy knows only too well about the impact of war on Iraq, and what it means to have to live with the reality of war. On Friday he spoke about how the country has been devastated since 2003, and in particular how his home city of Mosul has been affected. He spoke of life there since Isis seized control in 2014, recounting harrowing episodes of individual and collective suffering, the physical destruction of his own and his neighbours' houses from airstrikes, and of divisions and levels of corruption previously unexperienced in the country despite the repressive regime that existed there. His own personal journey from the place he called home to Ireland, where he has sought sanctuary and protection, was borne out of necessity. It was not one he undertook lightly. Hashim is a teacher by profession, and for an hour and a half he spoke in a manner that was engaging, informative and personal. Despite it being a very wet day, the talk attracted a good mix of people who came specifically for the talk and others who took the lunchtime opportunity to drop in to the gallery. Listening to the first-hand testimony of someone whose city, community, family and own life have been dramatically affected by war was a stark reminder of the harsh realities of living under siege and constant fear for those present. Photo by Hashim Alhadeedy, his destroyed home and neighbourhood Iraq*





Participants during Hashim's talk



Photos courtesy of John Lannon and Eva Gonzalez  
Report by curator Roberta Bacic, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2017