

The Latin American Studies Forum (LASF) at Queen's University Belfast is pleased to host this unique month-long exhibition in the context of the first Latin America Week at the University.

The LASF seeks to provide a focal point for diverse and geographically dispersed research activities and interests and to engage with the wider community in Northern Ireland.

Therefore, the LASF is also extremely pleased to welcome award-winning poet Jaime Huenún from Osorno, Chile. His poetry, articulated from within the struggle for survival of the Mapuche people in Chile will bring the exhibition to a close with a reading at the Welcome Centre on **Thursday 9 June at 6PM.**

We would like to thank Shan McAnena, Director of the Naughton Gallery at Queen's, and the staff at the QUB Welcome Centre for their valuable assistance and support in making these events possible.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES  
FORUM  
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

# Arpilleras and the Poetry of Survival

Textile Exhibition

Latin America Week 2011



*Vida Cotidiana en una Población. Anonymous, Chile 1983.*

**Queen's Welcome Centre**  
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Queen's University Belfast  
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**9 May—9 June 2011**

# Arpilleras

Roberta Bacic, curator

Arpilleras (arr-pee-air-ahs) are stitched appliqué textile wall hangings that tell a story. Arpilleras became prominent in Chile during the 1973 to 1990 dictatorship as they portrayed the everyday struggle of women and their communities to survive. Since then, they have travelled beyond Chile to engage new audiences across the world, and continue to be a means of expressing concerns and hopes of individuals and their communities.

Arpilleras often have a 'relief' quality for the makers while powerfully connecting the issues they portray to the viewers and inviting them to respond and express their own concerns. The scrap material and stitching, which create the simple, clear lines and forms of the figures and motifs -- often three-dimensional -- allow the viewer to comprehend and appreciate the determination of these Latin American sewer artists.

This exhibition features arpilleras in both their traditional and politicised forms. It also shows their evolution from Chile to Peru, and their more recent incarnations in England and Ireland where traditional quilting styles have absorbed the original arpillera style and made it into something fresh and unique.

Perhaps it is the surprisingly complex depth of emotion articulated by an apparently simple visual style that makes the appeal of the arpilleras strong and their language universal.

Belfast, May 2011

## List of pieces on display

Vida Cotidiana en una Población/Daily Life in a Poor Neighbourhood  
Recoleta workshop. Santiago, Chile, c.1983  
Courtesy Kinderhilfe Chile-Bonn ,Germany

Vida Cotidiana en una Población II/Daily Life in a Poor Neighbourhood II  
Recoleta workshop. Santiago, Chile, c.1983  
Courtesy Kinderhilfe Chile-Bonn ,Germany

Volcán Osorno/Osorno Volcano  
Fundación Solidaridad workshop. Santiago, Chile, 2007  
Courtesy of the Curator.

Cómo Hacer una Arpillera/How to Make an Arpillera  
Fundación Solidaridad workshop. Santiago, Chile, 2007  
Courtesy of the Curator

No al Femicidio/No to Violence Against Women  
Aurora Ortiz, arpillera. Santiago, Chile, 2010  
Courtesy of the Curator

Bucólica vida campesina/Bucolic Peasant Life  
Fundación Solidaridad workshop. Santiago, Chile, 2007  
Courtesy of Sally Rose, USA

Nuestra Vida en Chile/Our Life in Chile  
Elena Cerón Sandoval, arpillera. Santiago, Chile, 1989  
Courtesy of the Curator

Policia Volteando la Olla Común/Police Tumbling Over the Soup Kitchen Pot  
Workshop not known. Chile, c.1985  
Courtesy of Kinderhilfe Chile-Bonn

La Gente Necesita Trabajar/People Need Work  
Anonymous. Santiago, Chile, c.1977  
Courtesy of Rosario Miralles, Spain

Violar es un Crimen/Rape is a Crime  
María Herrera from Mujeres Creativas workshop. Peru, 2008  
Courtesy of the Curator

Mujer Paloma/Dove Woman  
Anonymous, Mujeres Creativas workshop. Peru, 1985  
Courtesy of Alicia Villanueva, Peru

Violencia en Ayacucho/Violence in Ayacucho  
F.C.H. from Mujeres Creativas workshop. Peru, c.2000  
Courtesy of Rebecca Dudley, Northern Ireland

From Far Away Come Their Stories  
Deborah Stockdale. Ireland, 2010  
Courtesy of the artist

No Going Back  
Sonia Copeland. Northern Ireland, 2009  
Courtesy of the artist

Play Today, Pay Tomorrow  
Irene MacWilliam. Northern Ireland, 2010  
Courtesy of the artist

Violencia en las Calles de Santiago/Violence on the Streets of Santiago  
Workshop not known. Chile, 1979  
Courtesy of Jaquie Monty, England

Desempleo/Unemployment  
Workshop not known, Chile, c.1985  
Courtesy of Lala & Austin Winkley, London

Mamá Rayhuana/Mother Rayhuana  
Manos que Cuentan workshop. Lima, Peru, 2008  
Courtesy of the curator