

In this collection of arpilleras, women from Chile, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Ireland and Colombia, through the ancient medium of needle and thread, narrate their chilling stories of human rights violations which relate to articles 3, 5, 9 and 13 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Spanning the period from 1980s to present day, the majority of these arpilleras portray personal experiences of, and courageous responses to, human rights violations, whilst two created recently are a reflective response by textile artists to the atrocities perpetrated almost 40 years ago by the Videla military dictatorship in Argentina.

At first glance these pieces are simply pretty textiles. However, if one looks closer at the apparently innocuous brightly coloured three-dimensional dolls dancing across some of these pieces, you see that they are not simply puppets but protesting campaigners in search for their disappeared, denouncing torture and other State abuses of human rights. Whatever strikes one first, glancing across these beautiful works of art, be sure to look again, and then again, and even again, for each piece carries layer upon layer of meaning, symbolism, and stories, which can be related to our own daily lives, stories which we can live out in our own struggles.



Exhibition Team

Roberta Bacic, curator

Breege Doherty, assistant curator

Deborah Stockdale, textile artist and workshops facilitator

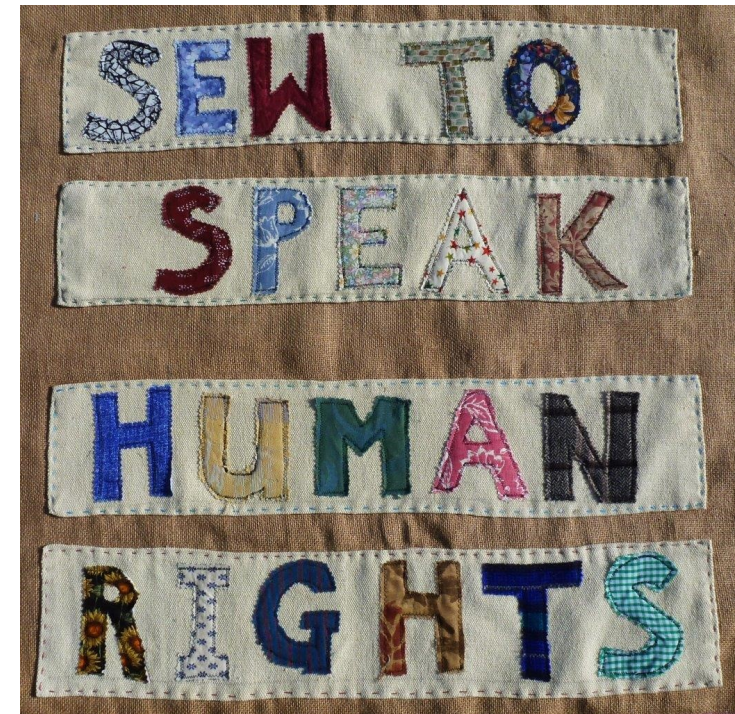
[www.http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/quilts/](http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/quilts/)

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An exhibition for:

Sew to Speak: Narrative Textiles in Human Rights and Healing Practices

Conference

Geneva, September 2014

ARTICLE 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person



¿Dónde están?/Where are they?
Chilean arpillerita, anon, early 1980s
Courtesy of Theresa Wolfwood,
Victoria, Canada



Irene, Marta, Hilda, Patricia: Ahora y Siempre Presentes / Irene, Marta, Hilda, Patricia: Now and Always Present
Argentinean arpillerita by students from Escuela de Cerámica, 2013. Courtesy of Roberta Bacic



La cueca sola / Dancing cueca alone
Chilean arpillerita by Gala Torres, 1989
Courtesy of Oshima Hakko Museum, Japan



They Fell like Stars from the Sky
Irish arpillerita, Deborah Stockdale, 2013. Courtesy of the artist

ARTICLE 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment



Sala de torturas / Torture Chamber
Chilean arpillerita by Violeta Morales, 1996. Courtesy of Marjorie Agosín, Chile / USA



En Chile se tortura /Demonstration against torture. Chilean arpillerita by Violeta Morales, 1988. Courtesy of Oshima Hakko Museum, Japan

ARTICLE 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile



Libertad a los presos politicos/ Freedom for the political prisoners.
Chilean arpillerita, anon., c1985. Courtesy of arpillerita collection Kinderhilfe, Chile/Bonn



Libertad a nuestros hermanos Mapuche / Freedom to our Mapuche brothers. Chilean arpillerita, Aurora Ortiz, 2011. Courtesy of Roberta Bacic



NO a la ley antirterrorista / NO to the antiterrorist law. Chilean arpillerita, Aurora Ortiz, 2011. Courtesy of Roberta Bacic

ARTICLE 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state

2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country



The day we will never forget. Collective arpillerita by Killarney girls, Zimbabwe, 2012, facilitated by Shari Eppel, Solidarity Peace Trust Zimbabwe, www.solidaritypeacetrust.org Courtesy of Killarney girls, Zimbabwe



Retorno/Return. Colombian arpillerita, Mujeres tejiendo sueños y sabores de paz, Mampuján, 2013
Courtesy of Roberta Bacic