Stitching & UNSTITCHING THE TROUBLES II

EXPLORING RESPONSES TO CONFLICT THROUGH TEXTILE ART

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Exploring responses to conflict through textile art

Stitching and Unstitching the Troubles II displays new art works created by community groups and individuals exploring their response to their own experience of the Troubles.

The art works were inspired by the *Stitching and Unstitching the Troubles* exhibition delivered by Causeway Museum Service and Mid-Antrim Museums Service with Roberta Bacic, as part of the North East PEACE III Cultural Fusions Project. That exhibition incorporated nearly forty quilts and arpilleras from seven countries exploring different aspects of conflict.
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Originating in Chile in the 1970s, arpillera (pronounced 'ar-pee-air-ah') textile artworks were created as a means of sharing stories relating to experiences of conflict. This textile tradition has since spread across the world.

For further information check out www.niarchive.org/CulturalFusions.

Causeway Museum Service and
Mid Antrim Museums Service
2013

The First Bomb in Coleraine
Arpillera by June Gamble, Focus on
Families, Ballysally, Coleraine, 2013

June recalls being at work in the shirt factory on Ballycastle
Road, when the car bomb planted by the IRA exploded on Rail-
way Road, Coleraine on June 12th 1973, killing six Protestant ci-
vilians. In this arpillera, we see her making the journey home
with her sister, detouring to avoid the town centre.
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/chron/ch73.htm

Ballykelly Bombing
Arpillera by Justene Archer, Focus on
Families, Ballysally, Coleraine, 2013

Here, Justene portrays the aftermath of the bomb at the Droppin' Well
Bar and Disco in Ballykelly, County Derry, Monday, 6th December,
1982, planted by the Irish National Liberation Army (INLA). A total of
17 people were killed, 11 British soldiers and 6 civilians.
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/chron/ch82.htm

William King, RIP
Arpillera by Gwendoline King, Fab Femmes, Ballymoney, 2013

Here Gwendoline remembers her Father in law, William King, one of the first casualties of The Troubles. She recalls: *"On September 23rd 1969, anxious that his son was late returning from the technical college on Strand Road, Derry, William set off to meet him. Amid the violent clashes taking place between Catholics and Protestants in the city centre area of Derry on that day, William, who had no involvement in The Troubles, was beaten to death."*
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/events/troops/chap4.htm

In Times of Trouble
Arpillera by Imelda Purcell, Focus on Families, Ballysally, Coleraine, 2013

Here Imelda remembers soldiers blocking the bridge in the aftermath of the IRA detonated bomb in Coleraine. This caused her great difficulty getting to and from work. The disruption to civil life during that era is still fresh in her mind.

Troubles in Ballymoney
Arpillera by Lorna Skelton, Fab Femmes, Ballymoney, 2013

In this arpillera, Lorna, through her image of a burning building, depicts the impact and aftermath of the Ballymoney van bomb in 1972, detonated by the IRA: *"A small wool shop which I would often have been in with my Mother was blown up. My arpillera is of a building that burned during that time."*
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/sutton/alpha/M.html

Aftermath of Ballymena bomb, 1979
Courtesy of Mid-Antrim Museum Service

Regents Park, London, IRA Bombing
Arpillera by Edith Weaver, Glenmona
Resource Centre, Cushendall, 2013

In this arpillera, Edith depicts the carnage caused by the IRA bomb in
Regent's Park, London, July 20th 1982. Seven bandsmen of the Royal
Green Jackets who were performing a concert at the open-air band-
stand were killed. Approximately two dozen civilians who had been
listening to the performance were injured.
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/chron/ch82.htm

Annie Magill from Garfur Hill
Arpillera by Rhoda Magill, Stitch and Bitch,
Glenlough Centre, Carnlough, 2013

In this arpillera, Rhoda fondly depicts her grandmother: *"Annie Magill
was my grannie, and this was her old house."*
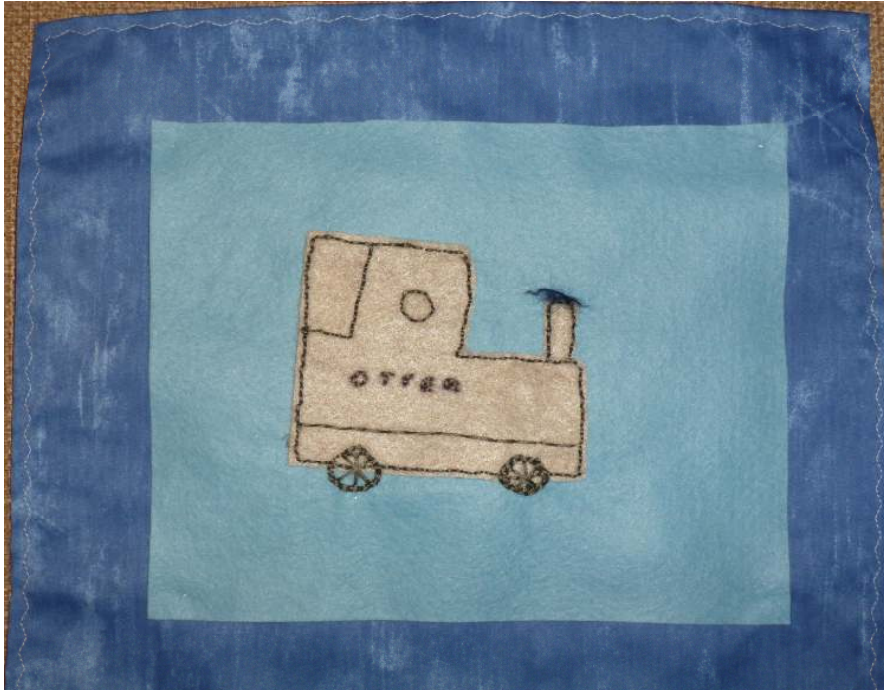
Locomotive 'Otter'
Arpillera by Geraldine Brady, Stitch and Bitch, Glenlough Centre, Carnlough, 2013

Geraldine invites us to journey with the steam locomotive the "Otter." It was acquired in 1898 and transported materials from the Tullyoughter limestone quarry to the Whiting Mill via a three kilometre long railway line, crossing Carnlough River on a trestle bridge.
http://www.planningni.gov.uk/downloads/conservation-carnlough.pdf (p13)
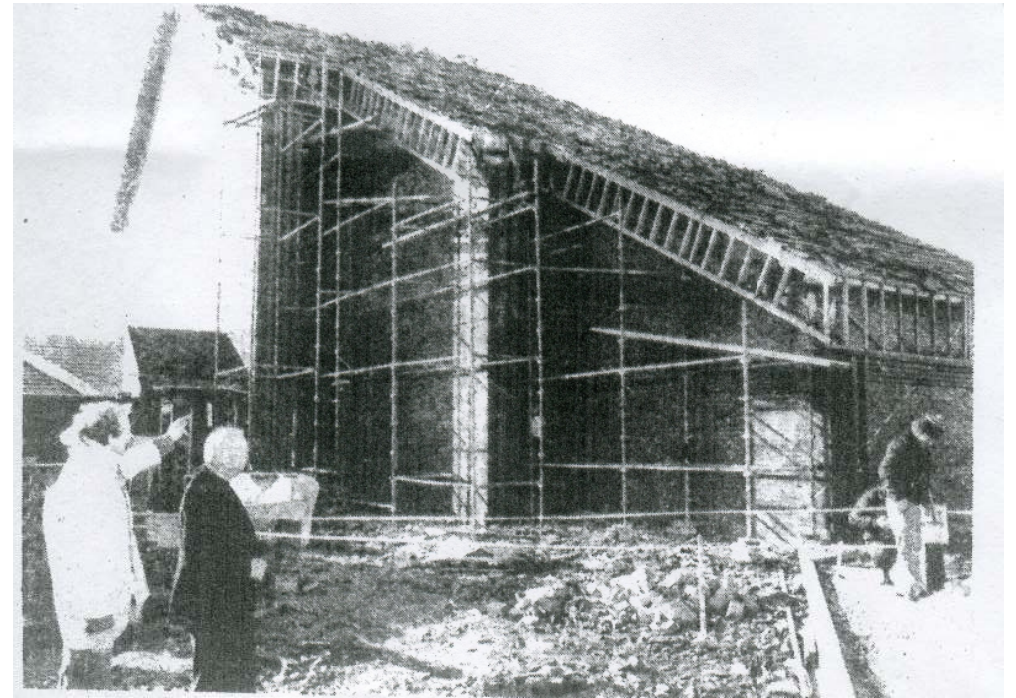

Hotel Bombing, Cushendall
Arpillera by Bernadette Walsh, Glenmona Resource Centre, Cushendall, 2013

Here Teresa depicts scenes from the aftermath of the bombing of the Cushendall hotel, on January 9th, 1974, and recalls that it briefly interrupted her schooling: *"We were not allowed to go to school for several days after the local hotel that we walked past on our way to school was blown up."*
issuu.com/Glenravel/docs/troubles25 (p9)

Aftermath of Limavady bomb blast, 1981. Courtesy of Northern Constitution

Aftermath of Kilrea bomb, 1976. Courtesy of a local family

The Side of the Wall
Arpillera by Michele Connor, Fab Femmes, Ballymoney, 2013

The balaclava covered face, framed by a gun is the stark image portrayed in this arpillera, half of which is bordered by the Union Jack flag and half by the Tri colour flag. Michelle reflects: *"With the Troubles we just saw men in balaclavas. Sometimes it was hard to know which side was which. I'm glad there's peace now."*

Alexander Mc Neill
Arpillera by Nora Glanville, Stitch and Bitch, Glenlough Centre, Carnlough, 2013

In this arpillera, Nora remembers Alexander McNeill, a 45 year old worker at Carnlough South limestone quarries in the 1890s, a major source of employment in the area at that time. Historical sources reveal that Alexander fell into the lime kiln, while it was very hot, and was burned to death on February 20th, 1895.

COLERAINE'S AGONY

Estd: 1844.   November 21, 1992   Price 40p

Aftermath of Coleraine bomb, 1992

Coleraine Bombing
Arpillera by Leanne Hanson, Focus on Families, Ballysally, Coleraine, 2013

Here Leanne depicts a building in flames, following the bombing of Coleraine Town centre, by the IRA, on Friday, November 13th 1992. Moores Shop in the Mall, Coleraine Town Hall and many commercial premises nearby suffered extensive damage from the blast.
http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/chron/ch92.htm

The Road Less Travelled
Arpillera by Ruth Morrow,
Focus on Families, Ballysally, Coleraine,
2013

Inspired by the words of the Larry Norman song "*Two roads converged, I took the road less travelled…*", Ruth, in this arpillera, refers to a turning point in her own life following a personal loss when she found solace in Christianity.

Ballycastle Golf Club bomb, 1985
Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle

Pub Bombing, Cushendall
Arpillera by Anne McLaughlin, Glenmona
Resource Centre, Cushendall, 2013

Here Anne depicts the devastation which ensued when a bomb left beside a lamp post outside a pub in Cushendall exploded: She recalls being both fearful and mindful of what other communities in similar situations were enduring: *"It was so scary seeing such devastation in the sleepy village. It brought home to us what other people were going through."*

The Hills of Carnlough
Arpillera by Patricia McCormick, Stitch and
Bitch, Glenlough Centre, Carnlough, 2013

Here Patricia depicts the beauty and stillness of the natural landscape around Carnlough. For her it is: *"Peaceful and beautiful and ever changing with the seasons, I call it home now."*

Ballymoney Bombing

Arpillera by Lorna Archibald, Focus on Families, Ballysally, Coleraine, 2013

Shops in flames on the main street of Ballymoney, is how Lorna remembers the bombing in 1972. Following the evacuation warning, one of the shopkeepers, a woman, turned back with fatal consequences.

http://issuu.com/glenravel/docs/troubles12 (p29)

Untitled

Arpillera by Sandra Pendon, 2013

In this arpillera we are drawn into a scene all too familiar during The Troubles; a vehicle in flames surrounded by soldiers with an army helicopter hovering overhead.

The Bridge, Carnlough
Arpillera by Selene Cruttenden, Stitch and
Bitch, Glenlough Centre, Carnlough, 2013

Here we see the bridge in Carnlough town centre, which links the
harbour area to the mountains and the Tullyoughter limestone
quarry, which opened in 1890 and was a major source of employ-
ment in the area. The railway line which transported the limestone
from quarry to harbour, for export, is also a prominent feature of
this arpillera.
http://www.planningni.gov.uk/downloads/conservation-
carnlough.pdf (p13)

Ballymoney Car bomb, 1976. Courtesy of Coleraine Chronicle

Through the Barricades
Arpillera by Jacqui Hill, Focus on Families,
Ballysally, Coleraine, 2013

This piece, with the central image of the heart overlaid on the two promi-
nent flags, tells the story of lovers from opposing communities who had
to meet in secret during The Troubles. Even today, this is still an issue.

Justice for All
Arpillera by Teresa McKendry, Glenmona
Resource Centre, Cushendall, 2013

Here Teresa depicts a female figure in strong, defiant pose holding the
scales of justice in her right hand and brandishing a sword in her left
hand. She appears to be blindfolded.

Praying for Peace
Arpillera by Moira Graham, Glenmona
Resource Centre, Cushendall, 2013

Strong opposing images are presented in this arpillera. We see
people with hands stretched upwards praying for peace, while
hovering in the background are dark figures intent on destroying
the peace dove. In Moira's opinion: *"Everyone is praying for
peace, but there's always people to shoot it down by bomb and
gun and their political agenda."*