

Arpilleras (pronounced "ar-pee-air-ahs") are three-dimensional appliqué textiles of Latin America, which originated in Chile in the late 1960s. The hessian backing fabric, known as arpillera in Spanish, became the name for this particular type of tapestry. During the Pinochet dictatorship in Chile, 1973-1990, the tradition of arpilleras developed to give voice to the repressed and disenfranchised of Chilean society.

This collection of 12 arpilleras is drawn from Chile, Peru, Spain, England and Ireland. The earlier pieces by Chilean and Peruvian arpilleristas (1970s - 1990s) draw us into their experiences of poverty, state repression and violence, loss of life, disappearance, imprisonment and, eventually, a return to democracy. The powerful and in-depth way in which these arpilleras facilitate the uncovering of human rights violations is aptly captured by Isabel Allende in the foreword to *Tapestries of Hope, Threads of Love: The Arpillera Movement in Chile*, when she states: "With leftovers of fabric and simple stitches, the women embroidered what could not be told in words..." .



En el Lado Bueno de la Valla—Photo Roser Corbera

Celebrating the 200th Jubilee of
Basel Mission
Specially curated for this occasion
by Roberta Bacic



Zur Politik des Nähens The Politics of Sewing



Missionsstrasse 21, Basel
Room "Bienvenidas"
From 8 to 11 of June 2015

List of ARPILLERAS:

¿Dónde están / Where are they?

Chilean arpillera, anon, early 1980s

Día de Visita / Day of Visit

Chilean arpillera, Victoria Diaz Caro, 1988

Ganó la gente / People have won

Chilean arpillera, anon., early 1990s

Homenaje a los caídos / Homage to fallen ones

Chilean arpillera, anon., late 1970s

Retorno de los exiliados / Return of the exiles

Chilean arpillera, Victoria Diaz Caro, 1992

Hornos de Lonquén / Lime kilns of Lonquen

Chilean arpillera, anon., c1979

Violencia en Ayacucho / Violence in Ayacucho

Peruvian arpillera, FCH Mujeres Creativas workshop, 1985

SMALL Actions BIG Movements

English arpillera, Linda Adams, 2014

Landmines / Campos Minados

English arpillera, Linda Adams, 2015

La cueca sola / Dancing cueca alone

Chilean arpillera, Aurora Ortiz, 2014

Represión a los Mapuche / Repression of the Mapuche

Chilean arpillera, Pamela Luque, 2015

En el lado "bueno" de la valla / On the "Good Side" of the Fence

Spanish Arpillera, Antonia Amador, 2014/2015

¿Dónde están / Where are they? - Photo Martin Melaugh



SMALL Actions BIG Movements—Photo Martin Melaugh



Violencia en Ayacucho / Violence in Ayacucho—Photo Martin Melaugh



Día de Visita / Day of Visit—Photo Martin Melaugh