

CONFLICT TEXTILES

Arpillera International Forum

Final Report on 'The Activist Sailing: Art Therapy and Activism'

The **Arpillera International Forum** featured as one of the activities undertaken by the project, '**The Activist Sailing**', with three different venues holding exhibitions of arpilleras in the Basque Country: Factory-Museum La Encartada de Balmaseda, the Guernica Peace Museum, and the Aiete Cultural Centre in Donostia.

At the same time a series of workshops on arpilleras took place at the Guernica Peace Museum from November 2015 to June 2016. They led to the creation of the piece entitled, '**Urdaibai, 20th-21st centuries**'.

Two pieces were also created by migrants who took part in a workshop held at the Red Cross Centre in Donostia. The pieces were named: **World Family** and **Untitled**.

These arpilleras became part of the exhibition **The Activist Sailing: Art Therapy and Activism** , 22/12/2016 - 02/04/2017. In addition, a piece was created by one of the participants of the Guernica arpillera group, which she named '**My Guernica**'.



Launch of the exhibition on the 21st December 2016: Iratxe Momoitio, Arrate Velasco, Maria Oianguren and Alex Carrascosa



Idoia Orbe presents the arpillera created in Guernica, *Urdaibai, 20th and 21st centuries*.

Urdaibai is an arpillera about Guernica, Basque Country. It was made by participants of the Women's Arpillera Workshop Group at the Guernica Peace Museum that took place as part of the activities within the exhibition entitled, '**Sewing Peace: Conflict, Arpilleras, Memory**', 2015-16'



Partial view of the exhibition on display



Welcome Refugees

Banner for non-violent action.

Arpillera from Guernica, Basque Country. Collective piece made during a workshop held as part of the activities of the **Arpillera International Forum, 2016**.



Welcome Refugees, identifying with these individuals.

Arpillera from Guernica, Basque Country.

Group piece made during a workshop held as part of the activities of the **Arpillera International Forum, 2016**.



World Family, arpillera from San Sebastian, Basque Country, Women's Empowerment Group, Red Cross, Guipuzcoa.

Workshop held as part of the activities during the exhibition: **'Sewing Peace: Conflict, Arpilleras, Memory'**, 2016



Untitled, Arpillera from San Sebastian, Basque Country

Collective piece outcome from Workshop held as part of the activities during the exhibition: **'Sewing Peace: Conflict, Arpilleras, Memory'**, 2016



My Guernica

Arpillera from Guernica, Basque Country, piece created by an individual participant in the workshop held at the Guernica Peace Museum. Made after the workshop concluded, 2017

The final outcome of the whole process was the publication of the book ***The Artist Sailing: Art Therapy and Activism*** a joint production by Guernica Peace Museum, Guernica Gogoratuz and San Sebastian City of Culture 2016. It brings together a range of experiences recorded by social and activist movements, both local and international, which inspired the **Artist Sailing** project. Among others, the publication includes accounts by the Arpillera International Forum, Women's Peace Route of Colombia, Jennifer Miller, founder of the New York social theatre group - Cirkus Amok, and local initiatives by the movement known as the Economy for the Common Good.

This project was conceived as a process of research, participation, and exhibition using the arts to confront urgent social issues of our time. From October 2015 to December 2016, through different initiatives, the **Artist Sailing** has highlighted current civil, social, and environmental challenges. They have been tackled by local and international activists and movements, representing different activist strategies, such as, theatre of the oppressed, performance and social theatre, or direct action.

Download the publication at

https://issuu.com/museodelapazdegernika/docs/embarcada_itsasoratze_artibista

Forum's photos can be seen

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/museodelapazdegernika/albums/72157664655723699>

Photos from the Guernica arpillera workshops

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/museodelapazdegernika/albums/72157667527072601>

Idoia Orbe Narbaiza, marzo 2017

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