



Movement for the Abolition of War

The Human Cost of War: quilt & arpillera exhibition

One of the most effective ways of informing people about the suffering and damage caused by war, violence and repressive regimes, is by using the arts, particularly images. For this reason the Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) is hosting an exhibition in London called "The Human Cost of War". It features 22 quilts and arpilleras (South American textile pictures), all made by women of different nationalities in response to violence and conflict, and often as a form of therapy, helping them to share their memories and hurt when words have failed them.

The preview of the exhibition will be at the Imperial War Museum (London) on Remembrance Sunday, 8 November. The curator Roberta Bacic is an international expert on quilts and their relationship to conflict, and has been responsible for several exhibitions around the world. She will be talking and answering questions during the day (and will be available for press interviews).

The lead quilt is *Executed at Dawn*. This was made by Irene MacWilliam after she learned about the 306 soldiers who were shot for 'cowardice' in the First World War. Janet Booth, whose grandfather Harry Farr was one of those men, and who led the successful campaign to obtain a pardon for all those shot, will also be speaking.

The exhibition will be at the St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace, Bishopsgate, from 18-21 November (www.stethelburgas.org). On the opening day Professor Sir Robert Hinde (MAW and Pugwash) will speak on "Ending War", and Roberta Bacic will also be there. The day will end with music and poetry. As there are several arpilleras from Chile and Peru, illustrating the actions women took part in against the military dictatorships, the music and poetry will tend to have a South American flavour.

Local schools will be visiting the exhibition on Thursday, and on Friday, as several of the quilts come from Northern Ireland, there will be a seminar on the Northern Ireland 'Troubles'. On Saturday, while the main exhibition stays at St Ethelburga's, Spanish quilts will go to the Whitechapel Gallery (www.whitechapelgallery.org) as part of an afternoon debate on the Spanish Civil War, and the event will itself form part of "The Nature of the Beast" exhibition by the Polish artist Goshka Macuga, on show in Gallery 2.

To close this series of events, on the Saturday evening there will be a concert of Chilean music at St Ethelburga's. Further details are available on the MAW website www.abolishwar.org.uk

If you would like to speak to someone about the events, please phone 01908 511948

Programme:

Sunday 8 November: Imperial War Museum Cinema

Exhibition Preview 11 am – 4.30 pm

Wednesday-Saturday November 18-21: St Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation & Peace

Wednesday - Exhibition open from 1.00 to 5.00 pm

Talks with Robert Hinde and Roberta Bacic

Thursday - Schools day. Visits by arrangement from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

Friday - Exhibition open from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

Northern Ireland seminar

Saturday - Exhibition open from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm

Evening concert

Saturday 21 November: Whitechapel Gallery 2.30-4.30 pm

Seminar on Spanish Civil War

The events at the Imperial War Museum and the Whitechapel Gallery are free and open to all. For events at St Ethelburga's, please visit www.stethelburgas.org or phone 020 749 61610

*'War must cease to be an admissible human institution.
The abolition of war must be our ultimate goal.'*

Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat F.R.S.
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate
Founding President of MAW

Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW)
11 Venetia Road, London N4 1EJ
01908 511948
www.abolishwar.org.uk

President: Professor Robert Hinde
Vice-presidents: Martin Bell, Bruce Kent and Susannah York



Member of the Nobel Laureate organisation:
International Peace Bureau (Geneva)