

The Side of the Wall

Northern Ireland 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 Tricolour 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.”*

This arpillera was sewn by Michele in group workshops facilitated by Deborah Stockdale which were part of the associated activities following the exhibition “Stitching and Unstitching the Troubles” in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, 2012.

Reflecting on the group process and on group discussions that seeded pieces such as Michelle’s, Deborah comments: *“I think Michele’s reflection typified the ambiguity of the various paramilitary operations, the roadblocks, the raids, all the terrorist activities people lived with for so very long in Northern Ireland.”*

Causeway Museum Service collection, Northern Ireland

Courtesy of the artist

Source:

Accounts of the Conflict (*archive*)

Bacic, Roberta. (*individual compiler*)

Conflict Textiles (*collection*)

<http://accounts.ulster.ac.uk/repo/collections/show/153>