Join us for a special presentation with Frederick M. Nunn, Professor Emeritus of History and International Studies, Portland State University.

Times of stress or crisis produce vivid and dramatic examples of the perpetual relationship between history and politics, and the creative arts. So it was in late twentieth-century Chile when “received” historical and political beliefs proved false, at best misleading. In 1973, Latin America’s most professional armed forces and police deposed a democratically elected president, held power for seventeen years, ruling harshly all the while.

Chileans in opposition to the regime produced art literature, music, poetry, and theater not only expressed their realization that assumptions about Chile’s past and its institutions, they demanded change. In no genre is this more clearly expressed in that of the arpilleras. “Threads of History” explores ‘the Chile of the Arpilleras,” the context in which appliqué became the medium of expression for the Chilean’s appreciation of their past and present, and perhaps their future.

This event is co-sponsored by the LAII and the National Hispanic Cultural Center. It is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact the LAII at (505) 277-2961. Photograph: The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse over La Moneda: Pinochet, Merino, Mendoza, and Leigh / Los Cuatro Jinetes de Apocalipsis Vuelan sobre La Moneda: Pinochet, Merino, Mendoza y Leigh. Collection of Marjorie Agosín. Textile by Violeta Morales, 1996; photo by Addison Doty.