

Introduction

Dear Educators,

These resources have been created to support teachers in integrating discussions and activities concerning Chilean arpilleras into their classroom.

The first recommendation we make to educators is to review another wonderful resource already available online: The Making History Series: “Stitching Truth: Women’s Protest Art in Pinochet’s Chile” from Facing History and Ourselves. This document includes a series of readings and comprehension questions to help students learn both about the history of Chile and the use of art as a form of political protest. Facing History and Ourselves has also provided complementary lesson plans on their website. You can access both “Stitching Truth: Women’s Protest Art in Pinochet’s Chile” and the complementary lesson plans at <http://www.facinghistory.org/resources/publications/bordando-la-verdad-arte-de->.

To support that resource and expand upon it, we have provided here a short overview and introduction to the relevant themes and topics which may be raised through discussing Chilean arpilleras, including politics and authoritarianism, women and community, abductions and desaparecidos (the disappeared ones), human rights and exile, and significant events after 1990. This narrative of arpilleras was written by the National Hispanic Cultural Center Art Museum and is reprinted here with permission. Educators are encouraged to read this background information, as it provides critical information which will aid when developing additional lesson plans and readings for their classrooms.

We’ve also included a list of books organized by reading level to support teaching about Chile, along with a list of relevant films.

Note that this educator’s guide was developed in conjunction with multiple professional development workshops offered in Spring and Fall 2013 through a partnership of the UNM Latin American & Iberian Institute and the National Hispanic Cultural Center. The workshops were organized to explore teaching about the exhibition “Stitching Resistance: TheHistory of Chilean Arpilleras,” on display at the NHCC from October 19, 2012, through January 31, 2014. The intent of this powerful and extensive exhibit was to help illuminate the artistry and the history of arpilleras in the hope that what happened to Chileans between 1973 and 1990 is never forgotten - and that the artists who stitched it are forever recognized.

- UNM Latin American & Iberian Institute