

Weavings of War: Fabrics of Memory

Ariel Zeltin Cooke, Marsha MacDowell



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Weavings of War: Fabrics of Memory accompanies the landmark 2005-2007 traveling exhibit of textiles depicting the horrors of war, by women from Central and Southeast Asia, Latin America, and South Africa. Textile artists (mostly women) throughout the world have responded to the terror of 20th-century war by incorporating images of war into works produced with traditional methods: Hmong embroiderers created storycloths depicting the plight of unarmed refugees confronted with modern military might; Afghan rug weavers replaced traditional motifs with images of tanks, machine pistols and AK-47s; Peruvian appliqués picture soldiers beating peasants.

With scholarly essays, profiles of several artists featured in the show, and beautiful textile images, Weavings of War stands as an eloquent testimony of the impact of modern warfare in our world, and the resilience of folk arts in contemporary life. Among the contributors are curator Ariel Zeitlin Cooke, consulting curator/folklorist Marsha MacDowell, historian James Young, and folklorist Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett.



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