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# 'IRA' quilt removed from council exhibition



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By Michael McMonagle

A quilt which references dead IRA members was recently removed from a public exhibition organised by Derry City Council, the 'Journal' has learned.

The quilt was part of the "Art of Survival" exhibition which comprises 71 Irish and Chilean-made quilts depicting themes of conflict, struggle and survival. The exhibition is currently on display at nine venues across the city.

The 'Remembering Quilt' was made by families of those killed during the Troubles as part of a project organised by victims group, Relatives for Justice. Work on the quilt began in 2001 and anyone who lost a loved one in the Troubles was invited to make a nine inch square dedicated to their memory. It was designed to commemorate all those who died in the Troubles including IRA volunteers, members of the security forces, and civilians killed by state forces or paramilitaries. While the quilt was on display at the Junction at Bishop Street, it is understood a complaint was made by someone who took offence at the references to IRA volunteers.

Following the complaint, the Junction asked Derry City Council to remove the quilt which was subsequently moved to the Verbal Arts Centre on Stable Lane where it is currently on display.

A spokesperson for Relatives for Justice said the quilt was meant to be inclusive. "This quilt has toured widely and been exhibited in many venues and this was the first time that anyone said it was offensive and asked for it to be removed. The whole principle of the quilt is to include everybody. The quilt is intended to help families to come to terms with their grief. It is meant to be a positive thing," she said.

The curator of the exhibition, Roberta Bacic, said she would not comment on the complaint or why the quilt was moved and said that all quilts were currently on public display.

A spokesperson for Derry City Council's Museum and Heritage Service explained that the quilt was removed at the request of the Junction and is currently on display at a new venue in the city. The

spokesperson added that the Junction continues to exhibit a range of quilts as part of this "internationally acclaimed" exhibition.

The full article contains 372 words and appears in Journal Friday DER Edition newspaper.

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