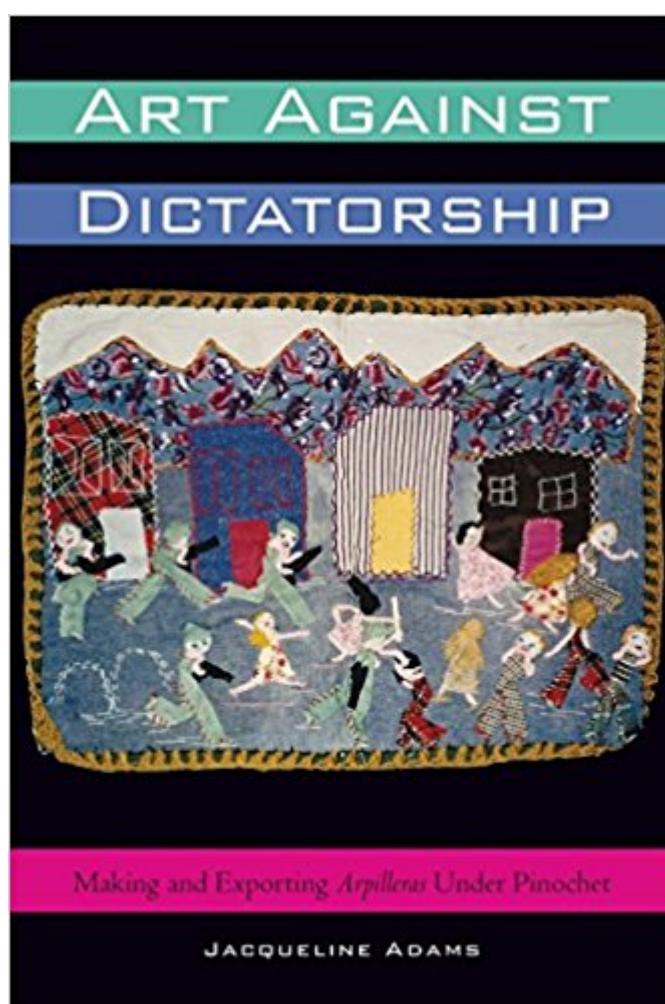


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Art Against Dictatorship: Making And Exporting Arpilleras Under Pinochet (Louann Atkins Temple Women & Culture)



Synopsis

Art can be a powerful avenue of resistance to oppressive governments. During the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet in Chile, some of the country's least powerful citizens—impoverished women living in Santiago's shantytowns—spotlighted the government's failings and use of violence by creating and selling *arpilleras*, appliquéd pictures in cloth that portrayed the unemployment, poverty, and repression that they endured, their work to make ends meet, and their varied forms of protest. Smuggled out of Chile by human rights organizations, the *arpilleras* raised international awareness of the Pinochet regime's abuses while providing income for the *arpillera* makers and creating a network of solidarity between the people of Chile and sympathizers throughout the world. Using the Chilean *arpilleras* as a case study, this book explores how dissident art can be produced under dictatorship, when freedom of expression is absent and repression rife, and the consequences of its production for the resistance and for the artists. Taking a sociological approach based on interviews, participant observation, archival research, and analysis of a visual database, Jacqueline Adams examines the emergence of the *arpilleras* and then traces their journey from the workshops and homes in which they were made, to the human rights organizations that exported them, and on to sellers and buyers abroad, as well as in Chile. She then presents the perspectives of the *arpillera* makers and human rights organization staff, who discuss how the *arpilleras* strengthened the resistance and empowered the women who made them.

Book Information

Series: Louann Atkins Temple Women & Culture (Book 29)

Paperback: 311 pages

Publisher: University of Texas Press; Reprint edition (November 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1477302042

ISBN-13: 978-1477302040

Product Dimensions: 6 x 1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #855,758 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #78 in Books > History > Americas > South America > Chile #1118 in Books > History > Americas > Mexico #3681 in Books > History > World > Women in History

Customer Reviews

Jacqueline Adams has worked as an assistant professor of sociology in Hong Kong; senior researcher at the University of Coimbra; and research fellow, scholar-in-residence, and visiting scholar at the University of California at Berkeley, where she is currently based.

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