



# Tapestries of Hope, Threads of Love: The Arpillera Movement in Chile

*Marjorie Agosín*

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*Tapestries of Hope, Threads of Love* tells the story of ordinary women living in terror and extreme poverty under General Pinochet's oppressive rule in Chile (1973-1989). These women defied the military dictatorship by embroidering their sorrow on scraps of cloth, using needles and thread as one of the boldest means of popular protest and resistance in Latin America. The *arpilleras* they made—patchwork tapestries with scenes of everyday life and memorials to their disappeared relatives—were smuggled out of Chile and brought to the world the story of their fruitless searches in jails, morgues, government offices, and the tribunals of law for their husbands, brothers, and sons.

Marjorie Agosín, herself a native of and exile from Chile, has spent more than thirty years interviewing the *arpilleristas* and following their work. She knows their stories intimately and knows, too, that none of them has ever found a disappeared relative alive. Even though the dictatorship ended in 1989 and democracy returned to Chile, no full account of the detained and disappeared has ever been offered. Still, many women maintain hope and continue to make *arpilleras*, both in memory and as art.

This new edition of the book, updated for students, includes a reaction to the death of General Pinochet, a chronology of Chile, several new testimonies from *arpilleristas* in their own words, and an introduction by Peter Kornbluh. It retains a section of full-color plates of *arpilleras*, an afterword by Peter Winn, and a foreword by Isabel Allende. Students and interested readers will find the *arpilleras* beautiful, moving, and ultimately hopeful, and the testimonies a powerful way to learn about the history of contemporary Latin America and the *arpillera* movement in Chile.

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