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GEOG 331

Revised Arpillera Analysis

The Arpillera I chose to look at is a scene depicting members of the military putting men in a river who seem to be bleeding and, if not dead, are suffering. From what I can tell every soldier in the arpillera has a smile on their face and they seem to be enjoying what they are doing to these men. This seems to be a very intentional choice from the artist since their mouths are done with string and are very detailed in terms of how it was stitched. This could have been done because the artist must have either seen the reactions from the soldiers when doing things like this or it was the only way for her to make sense of how someone could possibly do this to another human being. When looking at the choices of materials used for the arpillera I notice that the cloth used for everything besides the houses seems to be of a shirt material. The houses however look to be made of cloth typically seen on pants. There is also a lot of string used for small details like windows, faces, hair, waves, blood, stars, and the rays of the sun peeking out over the mountains. This attention to detail is beautiful but at the same time, horribly sad. The detail of the blood in the river and on the men being drowned isn't just accidental. It's very deliberately stitched into where the men seem to have been injured. When looking more at who is in the scene, it looks to be only soldiers and the bodies that are being thrown into the river. I think that the time of day being very early in the morning was also intentional since, considering the historical context, they didn't want people to see what was happening to the people who spoke

out. They wanted their families to consider them missing and not dead. This is why the soldiers would do something like this at night rather than during the day when everyone could see what was happening. Besides the men, there is also a military truck that the soldiers are taking the bodies out of. The question I still have when looking at this arpillera is if the men that are bleeding and being put in the river are already dead or, if they are trying to drown them. Knowing this information feels important since so many women are left with the thought of not knowing what happened to their loved ones.