

Morning Star

INCORPORATING THE DAILY WORKER

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Clear out
racism!

We want people to know the truth

"WE WANT people to know the truth" is the key title of the first proper exhibition of a new Chilean popular art now on show in Glasgow. Patchworks, which are made from scraps of material by groups of women organised into workshops, depict the lives of Chileans under the Pinochet regime and in particular the "disappearance" of many of their men.

Brightly coloured, detailed and very attractive, the patchworks represent in the broadest terms something important in the development of art. As Guy Brett, who organised the exhibition at the Three Eye gallery (with the assistance of Oxford), says in his excellent catalogue: "It is a popular art of resistance invent-

ed by the people themselves because of an overpowering need to express the bitter experiences they are going through and to find some channel of communication to the world outside."

The 50 or so patchworks on display are divided into four groups, dealing with the fate of political prisoners, the dark and the bright side of everyday life in the capital Santiago's shanty towns, political comment through satire and symbolism, and resistance and hope.

There is a childlike quality common to all the pictures, the sense of design is strong and the detail always telling. Above all, the patchworks present a realistic awareness of the daily struggle of the Chilean people and an optimism for the future.

