

Film City

December 2012

Old Govan Town Hall Glasgow

Multi-modal Installation/  
Live Streaming Event

*“A sea of candles are lit one dark December evening. Each candle represents a woman who made the journey away from Ireland over the years. Recalled by one of their descendants, these women are commemorated through this body of flickering light, bringing back their memories into a shared space as their names fade in and out in turn from a screen nearby. Dates, alongside the pockets of lands and water they crossed, appear beside their names, reminding those watching of both the physical and temporal distances covered, marking this phenomenon of mass migration”.*

On Tuesday the 4th of December a sea of candles was lit in memory of those Irish women who journeyed to other lands. This sculptural space is located at Film City (Old Govan Town Hall), Glasgow, located close to the Broomielaw where some of the boats arriving from Ireland would moor, with Govan itself a site of considerable Irish migration. The collection of names of Irish women of our past has continued to grow with more women remembered and represented by their descendants across the Diaspora, and more and more of their stories being remembered, recognized and shared. Each of the women's names sent to the artist was represented by a small candle which was lit within this temporary devotional space while the names of the women and the places they left were commemorated in a subtle video work close-by.

The sea of candles was filmed and streamed online for those who submitted names to access with a password, being able to see the event from any location and allowing them to witness the event on behalf of their relation. The original candle which was lit for my own grandmother in Donegal, and then lit at the various ports on my visit sat amongst the other candles, adding to the “sea” of light - a simple but effective act of remembrance.