

Journey Around Ireland

September 2012

Devotional Journey and Performance

At the start of 2012, I began collecting the names of women who left and departed from Ireland (www.irishwomenofourpast.co.uk), as I sought to create a work which would aim to capture the individual struggles and successes of these women. Drawing from this collection of personal histories, I created a form of map marking the significant points of embarkation, the last places these women had contact with the land of their birth and often the places where they left their families behind.

This process of mapping developed into a work which allowed both myself and the relatives of these women to commemorate the migrant women's departures from these sites. From this, I set out on a devotional journey around Ireland visiting the main ports the women departed from, taking with me the small candle which I originally first lit in front of my grandmother's family cottage in Donegal, and placing and re-lighting in their memory at each stop.