

Pencil Prose Interventions

Lynda Cronin



A few years before my visit to Cuba in 2017, I had brought a suitcase full of school supplies to a small school in northern Jamaica, where they were in desperate need of such resources, specifically pencils and erasers. Education is valued and I felt this small contribution was a valuable exchange between visitor and community.

For my trip to Cuba, I was interested in the social / political history of the country and of the inspirational women poets that contributed to the ideals of the culture. Selected excerpts from their poetry were written on to the side of HB pencils and arbitrarily distributed throughout the city; in parks, artist studios, on buildings and on cars. Some were picked up as soon as they were placed and others may have been there for quite some time before being discovered.

The Havana project, was a simple intervention as part of my quotidian walks around the city, meeting and exploring, discovering the inner core of the community. I plan to engage in a similar undertaking while as a visiting artist at Uillinn: West Cork Art Centre. My father grew up in the Midleton area of county Cork and his father Maurice Cronin, was the station master in the late 1800s. Before my residency, I was looking at old black and white photographs of that time, one in particular was of my father with his twin sisters. They were on their bikes and he is in the middle with his arms extended, they are balancing waiting for the photo to be taken, a moment in time solidified. My daughter will accompany me for part of this visit and it will be her 'Shorts from the Fort' a reflection on family, that will be part of the *Pencil Prose Project* this time.

