

GLEAN

EARLY 20TH CENTURY WOMEN FILMMAKERS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS IN SCOTLAND

This exhibition is the first large-scale survey of its kind. Presenting the work of 14 women, the exhibition aims to show how they responded with their cameras to life in Scotland's rural communities, cities and beyond. Their work is drawn from 17 archives predominantly across Scotland, ranging from Galloway to Shetland.

What were the women's different motivations and how did these inform the photographs and films they made? What different narratives about Scotland emerge from their work?

Whilst the majority of the women in this exhibition made their work independently, a small number worked in the film industry. Two set up commercial photography studios. When assessing the aims of these women, their films and photographs were used for a variety of purposes - to record events, to share with communities as well as wider audiences, to educate, for research use, for work, to sell, or to illustrate the other activities that they were involved in.

Whilst some described themselves solely as photographer or filmmaker, many described themselves in multiple ways - author, historian, folklorist, photographer, filmmaker. Two of the women had gone to art school, with the rest self-taught or learning as part of a job. A small number would not have thought of themselves in such terms as photographers or filmmakers. Seen in the whole, the work of these women provides a different insight into documentary practice from this period.

The exhibition is curated by Jenny Brownrigg (The Glasgow School of Art Exhibitions Director) in partnership with City Art Centre.

With thanks to the following lenders:

British Film Institute, Dumfries Museum, Edinburgh Museums and Galleries, Glasgow Women's Library, Historic Environment Scotland, Inverness Museum and Art Gallery (High Life Highland), Hidden Lane Gallery, Glasgow, Highland Folk Museum (High Life Highland), The Glasgow School of Art Archives and Collections, Moving Image Archive, Museum of London, National Library of Scotland, National Trust for Scotland Canna House, Orkney Library & Archive, Shetland Museum & Archives, Vanishing Scotland Archive