



THE
SOCIETY OF
AUTHORS'
AWARDS

2022

The Society of Authors' Awards ceremony is the culmination of 12 months of planning, reading, judging and more. There are many people without whom it could not happen.

To the 39 judges of these 10 prizes and awards, we appreciate the skill and knowledge you have brought to this year's judging process and thank you for your many hours of reading and discussion to discover our 2022 winners.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Lemn Sissay for hosting this year's ceremony.

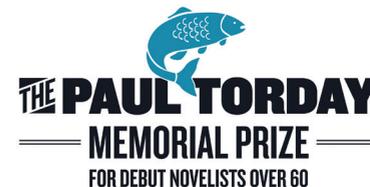
Thank you to the SoA's Management Committee and their Chair, Joanne Harris, for their continued support, and to the SoA staff team without whom the Awards would not be possible.

Finally, we would like to thank all our generous sponsors and supporters of future and present awards – ALCS, Arts Council England, Nicholas Allan, Ramdei Bowker, the Professional Writing Academy, the Hawthornden Literary Retreat, the Drusilla Harvey Memorial Fund, the family of Paul Torday, and the many trusts through which our prizes are funded.



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ENGLAND**



Society of Authors' Awards 2022

The Gordon Bowker Volcano Prize
The Somerset Maugham Awards
The Travelling Scholarships
The ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award
The Paul Torday Memorial Prize
Introducing the ADCI Literary Prize
The McKitterick Prize
The Queen's Knickers Award
The Cholmondeley Awards
The Eric Gregory Awards
The Betty Trask Prize and Awards

1 June 2022
Southwark Cathedral
London SE1 9DA

Introduced by Joanne Harris Presented by Lemn Sissay

JOANNE HARRIS (MBE) was born in Barnsley in 1964, of a French mother and an English father. She studied Modern and Mediaeval Languages at Cambridge and was a teacher for 15 years, during which time she published three novels, including *Chocolat* (1999), which was made into an Oscar-nominated film. Since then, she has written 19 more novels, plus novellas, short stories, game scripts, the libretti for two short operas, several screenplays, a stage musical (with Howard Goodall) and three cookbooks. Her books are now published in over 50 countries and have won a number of British and international awards. She is a passionate advocate for authors' rights, and is currently the Chair of the Society of Authors (SOA), and member of the Board of the Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS). She works from a shed in her garden, plays in the band she first joined when she was 16, and lives with her husband in a little wood in Yorkshire.

LEMN SISSAY (OBE) is a poet playwright, memoirist performer and broadcaster. Lemn has read on stage throughout the world, from The Library of Congress in the United States to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, from the Opera House of Dubai to London Palladium and finally, to the heady heights of Wigan library in... Wigan. Lemn was awarded The PEN Pinter Prize in 2019 when his memoir *My Name Is Why* reached number one in The Sunday Times bestseller list. In 2021 it won Indie Book Awards non-fiction prize. If you google the name 'Lemn Sissay' all the returning hits will be about him. There is only one person in the world named Lemn Sissay. His books of poetry are published by Canongate Books and his children's book *Don't Ask The Dragon* is to be published by Canongate Books in 2022. He was named MBE for services to literature by The Queen in 2014. In 2021 he was named OBE for services to Literature and Charity. He has honorary doctorates from Universities of Huddersfield, Manchester, Brunel, Kent and Essex. Lemn has been Chancellor of the University of Manchester since 2015. His chancellorship ends in 2022. He lives in London and Manchester.

The Gordon Bowker Volcano Prize

New for 2022

Prize for a novel focusing on the experience of travel away from home. In memory of Malcolm Lowry and endowed by Gordon Bowker, his biographer, and Ramdei Bowker.

Judges: Caroline Brothers, Philip Hensher and Aamer Hussein

The total prize fund for 2022 is £2,750

2022 Shortlist

Sheila Llewellyn *Winter in Tabriz* (Sceptre, Hodder and Staughton)

Tessa McWatt *The Snow Line* (Scribe UK)

Catherine Menon *Fragile Monsters* (Penguin General, Viking)

Jamie O'Connell *Diving For Pearls* (Double day, Transworld, Penguin Random House)

Olivia Sudjic *Asylum Road* (Bloomsbury Publishing)

It's thrilling to see writers engaging with other cultures, and exploring the processes of discovery and empathy. The books on our shortlist share a quality of active interest, patient imaginative work, and a beautiful humane recognition of difference and variety. They share, too, a care for craft, language, and thought.

Philip Hensher

WINNER

Sheila Llewellyn
for *Winter in Tabriz*
- £2,000

Sheila Llewellyn was born in England, of Welsh heritage, and has dual British/Irish citizenship. She has worked in Africa, Iran, Singapore, Germany and Russia. In 2002, she trained as a cognitive behavioural therapist at the University of Oxford, moved to Northern Ireland with her husband and worked as a specialist in PTSD at a national trauma centre. She completed a PhD in Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry in Belfast in 2016. Her first novel, *Walking Wounded*, was published in 2018 and was shortlisted for the Society of Authors Paul Torday Memorial Prize.

'Winter in Tabriz evokes a country in turmoil – 1970s Iran – through the eyes of a gay Englishman in love with an Iranian poet, who survives the regime's repression but comes adrift in its aftermath, his life in limbo amid the grief and uncertainty of disappearance. The novel stood out for its exploration of the risks and price of resistance, and for its honesty about being a foreigner with an escape route from someone else's history. It is a novel that takes no easy fictional solutions, but speaks hard-won truths about the way seismic change reverberates upon even the least political of lives.'

Caroline Brothers

The Gordon Bowker Volcano Prize

RUNNER UP

Jamie O'Connell
for *Diving for Pearls*
- £750

Jamie O'Connell has had short stories highly commended by the Costa Short Story Award and the Irish Book Award Short Story of the Year. He has been longlisted for BBC Radio 4 Opening Lines Short Story Competition and shortlisted for the Maeve Binchy Travel Award and the Sky Arts Futures Fund. He has an MFA and MA in Creative Writing from University College Dublin. He has worked for Penguin Random House, Gill Books and O'Brien Press. *Diving for Pearls* is his first novel.

'Jamie O'Connell's Diving for Pearls is a wonderfully confident debut, exploring a wide range of very different characters, experiencing Dubai in very different ways. Like the best novelists, he is fascinated by a crowded mix of humanity, and he has the tools to fascinate his readers too - his characters leap off the page, and his ear for dialogue is exceptional. This is a gripping first novel which announces a big new talent.'

Philip Hensher

The Somerset Maugham Awards

Awarded since 1947

Awards for writers under 30 to be used for foreign travel

Judges: Fred D'Aguiar, Ardashir Vakil and Roseanne Watt

The total award fund for 2022 is £16,000

I know I read for pleasure and I read to be disturbed; troubled by something that surprised me with its point of view and force of feeling. The five books and writers managed all of these for me to varying degrees and with varied emphasis. The mix of fiction, poetry and nonfiction in the five books belies the fact that each book strays into terrain that undermines neat divisions of genre so that each may be said to have elements of all genre's except perhaps the stage play.

Fred D'Aguiar

The Somerset Maugham Award Winners

Tice Cin
for *Keeping the House*
(And Other Stories)
- £3,200

Tice Cin is an interdisciplinary artist from north London. A London Writers Award-winner, her work has been published by Extra Teeth and Skin Deep and commissioned by places like Battersea Arts Centre and St Paul's Cathedral. An alumnus of Barbican Young Poets, she now creates digital art as part of Design Yourself – a collective based at the Barbican Centre – exploring what it means to be human when technology is changing everything. A producer and DJ, she is releasing an EP, *Keeping the House*, to accompany her debut novel of the same name.

'There is one line in this book that may deserve a t-shirt or tattoo. It says, "If you get me to dance, you have me." In a book with a playlist and recipes for a post-colonial cookbook, the collage arrangement, with time warps and time bends and shuffle of narrative, enacts how we think and how we curate our lives.'

Fred D'Aguiar

Maia Elsner
for *overrun by wild boars*
(Flipped Eye Publishing)
- £3,200

Maia Elsner Born in London to Mexican and Polish Jewish parents, Maia Elsner grew up in a multi-lingual, multi-faith household. Her recent poems have appeared in Poetry Ireland, Magma, Tinderbox and The Maine Review, among others. Maia's work has been widely anthologized, including in *Un Nuevo Sol: British LatinX Writers* (flipped eye, 2019), *Field Notes on Survival* (Bad Betty Press, 2020), *Live Canon 2020 Anthology* (Live Canon, 2020), *Crossing Lines: An Anthology of Immigrant Poetry* (Broken Sleep Books, 2020). She is currently working on a collaborative poetry film project, and on translating Latin American writers into English. *overrun by wild boars* (2021) is her debut collection.

'Maia Elsner's poems are beautifully crafted, original and arresting. Her subject matter is fresh and varied. She delves into the past and the present through a trans-national lens, both in terms of her own experiences and the poets she references.'

Ardashir Vakili

The Somerset Maugham Award Winners

Caleb Azumah Nelson
for *Open Water*
(Penguin Random
House/Viking) - £3,200

Caleb Azumah Nelson is a British-Ghanaian writer and photographer living in South East London. His writing has been published in Litro. He was recently shortlisted for the Palm Photo Prize and won the People's Choice prize. *Open Water* is his first novel.

'Black Being in South London finds a safe space to flower in this book of intimacy between a photographer and a dancer. Its John Berger's Seeing meets Isadora Duncan, and what a delicate, intricate web of prose that proceeds with the care of poetry.'

Fred D'Aguiar

Lucia Osborne-Crowley
for *My Body Keeps Your
Secrets* (The Indigo
Press) - £3,200

Lucia Osborne-Crowley is a writer and journalist. Her news reporting and literary work has appeared in Granta, The Sunday Times, HuffPost UK, the Guardian, ABC News, Meanjin, The Lifted Brow and others. Lucia works as a staff reporter for Law360. Lucia's first book, *I Choose Elena*, was published in 2019. Her second book, *My Body Keeps Your Secrets: Dispatches on Shame and Reclamation*, was published in September 2021..

'My body keeps your secrets is an important and timely exploration of the effects of trauma on the body and mind. Superbly put together, it interweaves the author's own story of rape and resultant physical trauma with a range of moving stories, gathered through interviews, expertly honed, with a diverse group of people who have suffered and survived experiences of trauma.'

Ardashir Vakil

The Somerset Maugham Award Winners

Stephanie Sy-Quia
for *Amnion* (Granta)
- £3,200

Stephanie Sy-Quia was born in 1995 in California and now lives in London. She studied English at Oxford and currently works as a freelance journalist. Her writing has appeared in the FT Weekend, the TLS, the Economist, the Spectator and TANK magazine, and has twice been shortlisted for the FT Bodley Head Essay prize.

'Stephanie Sy-Quia is an inventive and bold writer. Amnion is a heady mixture of prose and poetry; an autobiography and a history that travels across continents and brings with it an irreverent, unafraid commentary on sexual politics, decolonization and identity.'

Ardashir Vakil

The Travelling Scholarships

Awards founded in 1944

Enabling authors to travel and engage with writers abroad

The total award fund for 2022 is £8,000

Assessors: Tahmima Anam, Aida Edemariam, Gabriel Gbadamosi, Anne McElvoy, Abir Mukherjee

The Travelling Scholarships

Alice Albinia
- £1,333.33

Alice Albinia is the award-winning author of twinned works of fiction and non-fiction. *Empires of the Indus* and *Leela's Book* explore overlapping territory in South Asia; *Cwen* and *The Britannias*, Britain through its islands. *Cwen*, set on an archipelago that comes under female rule, is out now with Serpent's Tail; *The Britannias* is forthcoming from Allen Lane.

'Alice Albinia is a rare and gifted writer, as wonderful in fiction as in non-fiction. She reaches far and wide, geographically and thematically, crossing time and space with great elegance, and we hope this award will inspire her to continue to make bold decisions in her future work.'

Tahmima Anam

Maame Blue
- £1,333.33

Maame Blue is a British Ghanaian writer and co-host of 'Headscarves and Carryons' – a podcast about black women living abroad – who splits her time between London and Melbourne. Having developed as a poet on the spoken word scene, her prose work has appeared in *Black Ballad*, *The Independent*, *AFREADA*, *Litro Magazine*, *Storm Cellar Quarterly*, *WritersMosaic* and *The Good Journal*. Her short story 'Howl' was published in the *New Australian Fiction 2020* anthology, and her debut novel *Bad Love*, which won a Betty Trask Award in 2021, was longlisted for the Guardian's Not The Booker Prize and chosen by Cheltenham Literature Festival as one of their top three debuts of 2020. She is 'cautiously' working on her second novel.

'Maame Blue was selected for her project of 'shadowing Othello' through exchanges with Ghanaian writers in Italy, the better to voice a British Ghanaian sense of being in the world, while exploring Shakespeare's take on blackness with Italian Ghanaians.'

Gabriel Gbadamosi

The Travelling Scholarships

Linda Brogan
- £1,333.33

Linda Brogan is a multi-award-winning playwright. She has been resident in the National Theatre, Contact Theatre, Peterborough Maximum Security Prison, Askham Grange Open Prison and the Whitworth Art Gallery. Her writing for the theatre includes *What's In The Cat* (Royal Court/Contact Theatre), *You Are What You Eat* and *The Very Thought of You* (Wolsey/Tricycle), *Basil and Beattie* (Manchester Royal Exchange/Liverpool Everyman), *Ghost Town* (Clean Break), *Black Crows* and *The Well* (Contact) and the radio play *God Can See Down Entries* (BBC Radio 3). She won the 2001 Alfred Fagon Award. A recent project was an archaeological dig of The Reno nightclub in Moss Side, involving the local community, and a celebration of its material culture along with the curated stories of mixed-race people 'to put them on the map' in a year-long exhibition and residency at Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery.

'Linda Brogan is restlessly expanding her search for ways to voice a widening vision of herself as a mixed-race writer from Moss Side, and was selected to develop her practice in dialogue with a Japanese conceptual artist in Berlin.'

Gabriel Gbadamosi

Ben Judah
- £1,333.33

Ben Judah is a writer, journalist and author and senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Europe Center based in New York. He is the author of two acclaimed books: *Fragile Empire*, a study of Vladimir Putin's Russia, and *This is London*, a book on the British capital. He is working on his third book with Picador, an imprint of Pan Macmillan. He has been commended as British Feature Writer of the Year at The Press Awards (formerly known as the British Press Awards), been selected as a Forbes 30 Under 30 Europe, and most recently was a finalist for the 2019 Ryszard Kapuściński Award for Literary Reportage.

'Ben Judah mixes the skills of a story-hungry foreign correspondent with cultural analysis and an understanding of the importance of intangible factors in the stories of a changing Europe. From surveying the experience of immigrants, rich and poor in London, to assessing why the post- 1989 period in Moscow set Russia on the course of destruction, he is a clear-eyed, empathetic writer with a talent for listening to the experiences of ordinary people, at the forefront of events – and the drive to seek them out, from war zones to the underpasses of western cities.'

Anne McElvoy

The Travelling Scholarships

Ayisha Malik
- £1,333.33

Ayisha Malik's novels *Sofia Khan is Not Obligated*, *The Other Half of Happiness*, and *This Green and Pleasant Land* were met with great critical acclaim and she was a WHSmith Fresh Talent Pick. She is a winner of The Diversity Book Awards and has been shortlisted for The Asian Women of Achievement Award, Marie Claire's Future Shapers' Awards and the h100 Awards. Her fourth novel, *The Movement*, is out July 2022.

'Ayisha Malik is an extremely talented writer. A young, Muslim, British Asian woman, I've long thought her work to be perceptive and thoughtful. Her last novel, A Green and Pleasant Land – a satire about acceptance and Britishness was masterful. Her work centres on what it means to be British and Muslim and her insights are perceptive, yet witty. She's an important voice and a timely one and I'm sure a Travelling Scholarship will help her in her journey as a writer.'

Abir Mukherjee

Dylan Moore
- £1,333.33

Dylan Moore has founded and co-founded magazines including *The Raconteur* and the *Wales Arts Review* and his journalism has been published by *theartsdesk*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Lonely Planet*, *Times Educational Supplement* and *Vanity Fair*. His commentary has featured on BBC television, Radio 4 and Radio 1Xtra. Dylan is a regular guest and presenter at Hay Festival, and has appeared at festivals in Wales, Spain, Hungary, India, Peru, Colombia and Mexico. He is passionate about human rights, and has worked to support refugees, and on the executive committee of Wales PEN Cymru, on behalf of whom he spoke in solidarity with threatened journalists at PEN Pregunta, Mexico City.

'In Many Rivers to Cross, his first novel, Dylan Moore imagines the issue of refugee resettlement in Wales from many points of view: asylum seeker, lorry driver, refugee child at school, the mother left behind in Ethiopia. It is a necessary and haunting act of earned empathy, of a type that I wish to encourage.'

Aida Edemariam

The ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award

Founded by Nellie Tom-Gallon in memory of her brother in 1938

And now generously funded by the Authors' Licencing and Collecting Society.

For a short story of up to 5,000 words

The total prize fund for 2022 is £1,575

Judges: Claire Fuller, Sophie Haydock, Billy Kahora and Mary Watson

2022 Shortlist

Sheila Armstrong 'Red Market'

Kanya D'Almeida 'I Cleaned The—'

David Frankel 'The Memory System'

Dean Gessie 'Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump'

Ben Tufnell 'Last Days'

Roland Watson-Grant 'The Disappearance of Mumma Dell'

It's been such a joy to choose a shortlist for the ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award. Each story has given me a view into a tiny magical world, showing me places, situations, and characters I instantly believed in, whether they were based in reality or something more odd and unsettling, and the writing in each story was of course, outstanding.

Claire Fuller

WINNER

Kanya D'Almeida
for 'I Cleaned The—'
- £1,000

Kanya D'Almeida is a Sri Lankan writer. Her story 'I Cleaned The—' won the 2021 Commonwealth Short Story Prize. Her fiction has appeared on Jaggery and The Bangalore Review. She holds an MFA in fiction from Columbia University's School of the Arts. She is the host of The Darkest Light, a podcast exploring birth and motherhood in Sri Lanka. She is working on a book of short stories about mad women.

'This story stands out with its richly textured narrative and well-drawn characters. The connections, and disconnections, between characters are artfully articulated through what is said, and what's not said, in this well-crafted story.'

Mary Watson

TB Rita loves the story. I don't know why. It doesn't have a happy ending.

©Kanya D'Almeida, from 'I Cleaned The—'

The ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award

RUNNER UP

Dean Gessie

'Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump' - £575

Dean Gessie is a renowned author and poet who has won or placed in more than 100 international literary competitions. Among other honours, Dean was included in The 64 Best Poets of 2018 and 2019 by Black Mountain Press in North Carolina. Dean was also a medal winner for the Nossida Poetry Prize in Italy and published in the 35th World Poetry Prize Anthology. Dean's short story collection - called *Anthropocene* - won an Eyelands Book Award in Greece, the Uncollected Press Prize in Maryland and runner-up in the Los Angeles and San Francisco Book Festival Competitions.

'Head Smashed by Buffalo Jump is a fascinating juggling act. Gessie throws up the most disparate elements: an Indian couple that loses their baby, Native American lore, and peacocks in their garden to produce an unforgettable treatise on the liminality of birth and modernity in our times.'

Billy Kahora

When Saanvi was born, her father purchased a tree to plant in the backyard. He went from one nursery to another like a pollinating bee.

©Dean Gessie, from 'Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump'

The Paul Torday Memorial Prize

Founded by the family of Paul Torday in 2019 celebrating debut novelists over 60. Generously supported by the Hawthornden Literary Retreat.

The total prize fund for 2022 is £1,000

The winner will receive a full set of Torday's collected works and the runner up will receive one specially selected novel with a commemorative book plate

Judges: Mavis Cheek, Denise Mina, Donald S. Murray

2022 Shortlist

Yvonne Bailey-Smith *The Day I Fell off My Island* (Myriad Editions)

Anthony English *Death of a Coast Watcher* (Monsoon Books)

John Fletcher *Wuhan* (Head of Zeus)

Jane Fraser *Advent* (Honno Press)

Michael Mallon *The Disciple* (Zuleika)

Judging the Paul Torday Award was like embarking on an exploration of the world, both in its past and present shapes and forms. It took me to a wide range of times and places, to edges of both history and humanity where I had rarely stepped before. I felt both enriched and honoured by many of my encounters during the experience.

Donald S. Murray

The Paul Torday Memorial Prize

WINNER
Jane Fraser
for *Advent*
(Honno Press)
£1,000

Jane Fraser has been widely published in anthologies and reviews including New Welsh Review, The Lonely Crowd, Fish Publishing, TSS and The London Magazine. Her short fiction has been commissioned by BBC Radio 4 and broadcast as part of its Short Works series. Her short stories have figured highly in major international competitions: in 2017 she was a finalist in the Manchester Fiction Prize (and has also been highly commended eight times), and in 2018 was a prize winner in the Fish Memoir Prize. She has also long and shortlisted in the Cambridge Short Story Prize, the ABR Elizabeth Jolley Prize, the Rhys Davies Short Story Competition and Retreat West Short Story Competition.

'My notes open with the sentence, 'From the moment I started reading this I breathed a sigh of relief for I knew it was a potential winner.' And that impression remained. It is a love story but it is lifted beyond that by the interplay of the strongly drawn characters – mother, brothers, grandmother – and the sense of time and place. Janet Fraser writes in a clear, unfussy style which reflects the character of the story, the plot rolls along very enjoyably, concludes satisfyingly, and I really commend it.'

Mavis Cheek

RUNNER UP
Michael Mallon
for *The Disciple*

Michael Mallon was born in 1960. He has lived between Italy, France and America. He now lives in Philadelphia. This was his first book.

'A deep and insightful work, Michael Mallon's The Disciple offers intimate access to the complexities that can often lie at the heart of a human relationship, chronicling the love and hatred, trust and disloyalty, resentment and gratitude that can sometimes exist in conjunction with one another. It does all this with clarity and precision, one that in its artistry and subtlety mirrors the city of Florence where much of it is set.'

Donald S. Murray

The ADCI Literary Prize

The ADCI (Authors with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses) Literary Prize will be an annual prize with a fund of £2,000.

The prize seeks to encourage greater positive representation of disability in literature. Open to disabled authors and those living with chronic illness, the prize will call for entries of novels which include a character or characters from this minority group. This prize aims to encourage disabled and chronically ill authors as well as highlighting the need for wider representation of disabled and chronically ill characters in mainstream literature.

The idea for the prize was originally formed by RedDoor publisher Clare Christian and author Penny Batchelor.

Generously supported by Arts Council England, the Drusilla Harvey Memorial Fund, and the Professional Writing Academy.

The ADCI Literary Prize will open for submissions in August 2022.

The McKitterick Prize

Founded in 1990 by Tom McKitterick, journalist and author of an unpublished novel

Open to debut novels by writers aged 40 years and over

The total prize fund for 2022 is £5,250

Judges: Selma Dabbagh, Rebecca Foster, Kelleigh Greenberg-Jephcott, Anietie Isong, Nick Rennison

2022 Shortlist

David Annand *Peterdown* (Little Brown)

Oana Aristide *Under The Blue* (Bloomsbury)

Claire-Louise Bennett *Checkout 19* (Penguin)

Celeste Mohammed *PleasantView* (Jacaranda Books Art Music LTD)

Lisa Taddeo *Animal* (Bloomsbury)

Rachel Yoder *Nightbitch* (Penguin)

The shortlisted titles take us on a spiralling journey. We glimpse the dark side of paradise, meet the likeable residents of an industrial town and follow three souls on a quest for survival in a post-pandemic world. A woman flees her home in search of answers and another navigates the complexities of motherhood. These are deeply engaging works that swell with vitality.

Anietie Isong

The McKitterick Prize

WINNER

David Annand
for *Peterdown* - £4,000

David Annand has worked as an editor at Condé Nast Traveller and GQ. He has written for the FT, TLS, Telegraph, Literary Review, the New Statesman and Time Out. *Peterdown* is his first book.

'A powerful, accomplished novel. In Peterdown buildings are fought over and characters' morality is tested with every twist in the plot. In this celebration of no-glory heroics Annand provides a state of the nation novel rich with compassion and intelligence.'

Selma Dabbagh

RUNNER UP

Lisa Taddeo
for *Animal* - £1,250

Lisa Taddeo is the author of *Three Women*, which she is currently adapting for a television series with Showtime. *Three Women* was both a Sunday Times and New York Times number one bestseller, the most-picked book of the year in the UK in 2019, the British Book Awards Narrative Non-Fiction Book of the Year and the Foyles Non-Fiction Book of the Year. She is a columnist for The Sunday Times Style magazine and has contributed to The Sunday Times, New York magazine, Esquire, Elle, Glamour and many other publications. She is one of a select few authors to have published both fiction and non-fiction in Playboy, alongside Margaret Atwood, Vladimir Nabokov, Kingsley Amis and Norman Mailer, and she is also working on television projects with Netflix and Annapurna Pictures. She lives with her husband and daughter in New England.

'Reading Animal takes you into the domain of the sexy and the predatory; a series of crime scenes tied together by blood and lust. It is a place where women - damaged, daring, solitary - come together. Taddeo's voice is utterly distinctive, uniquely captivating.'

Selma Dabbagh

The Queen's Knickers Award

Founded in 2020 and funded by Nicholas Allan and awarded to an outstanding children's original illustrated book for ages 0-7.

The total prize fund for 2022 is £6,000

Judges: Lauren Child, Petr Horáček and Patrice Lawrence

2022 Shortlist

Alastair Chisholm and David Roberts *Inch and Grub* (Walker Books)

Chris Houghton *Maybe...* (Walker Books)

Matthew Hodson *At This Very Moment* (Cicada Books)

Mick Jackon and John Broadley *While You're Sleeping*

(Pavilion Children's Books)

Dr Meredith L. Rowe and Monika Forsberg *An Interesting*

Word for Every Day of the Year (Magic Cat Publishing)

I'm pleased to say that the variety of submitted titles is also reflected in the shortlist itself. From a caveman comedy to a word of the day, a trio of boundary pushing monkeys to lessons on how to stay in the moment, to stories of the world that wakes up when you are asleep. The selected titles all vary in some ways, but have one thing in common; they are outstanding and original illustrated books.

Petr Horáček

WINNER

**Alastair Chisholm
and David Roberts**
for *Inch and Grub*
- £5,000

Alastair Chisholm began his career as a software developer in Edinburgh. His interest in devising and tackling logical problems led him to create the hugely successful *Kids Book of Sudoku* and *Kids Book of Karuko* puzzle book series. *The Prince and the Witch* and *The Thief and the Bears*, illustrated by Jez Tuya, was his first picture book. Alastair lives in Edinburgh.

David Roberts is the author-illustrator of the Dirty Bertie books and the illustrator of many books for children, including the bestselling *Rosie Revere, Engineer* and *Ada Twist, Scientist*, written by Andrea Beaty, several titles by Julia Donaldson, the Kate Greenaway-shortlisted *The Dunderheads*, written by Paul Fleischman, non-fiction children's book *Suffragette: The Battle for Equality*, and the picture books *The Dumpster Diver*, written by Janet S. Wong, and *His Royal Tinyness*, written by Sally Lloyd-Jones. Born in Liverpool, he now lives in London.

'Beautifully clever writing. The dialogue – all written in 'caveman' – is joyfully funny and stands up to repeated reading. The illustration is exquisite, brilliantly drawing beyond the words with wit and exaggeration. We can only laugh at the ridiculousness of Inch and Grub and their pointless drive for one up-man-ship. The perfect marriage of picture and text.'

Lauren Child

The Queen's Knickers Award

RUNNERS UP

Mick Jackson and John Broadley
for *While You're Sleeping*
- £1,000

Mick Jackson is an award-winning novelist and screenwriter from Lancashire, UK. His first novel was shortlisted for the Booker Prize. He has recently started writing for children.

John Broadley has been active in illustration and small press publishing since the mid 1990s. He works mostly in pen and ink and collage. His work has recently been used to decorate the interiors, menus and branding for Quo Vadis restaurant Soho. He has designed a range of packaging and ceramics for the Fine Cheese Company and also wine labels for Gabb Family, Berry Bros & Rudd, and Fortnum & Mason. John has illustrated several food and historically themed books, as well as many magazines. *While You're Sleeping* is his first children's book.

'This beautiful non-fiction book caught my attention straight away. I loved the gorgeous textured illustrations in such an unusual distinctive palette. After a tumultuous two years, While You're Sleeping, radiated a calmness and reassurance that feels so important right now.'

Patrice Lawrence

The Cholmondeley Awards

Founded 52 years ago by the late Dowager Marchioness of Cholmondeley

Recognising achievement and distinction in poetry

The total award fund for 2022 is £8,400

Accessors: Moniza Alvi, Hannah Lowe, Drew Milne and Deryn Rees-Jones.

The Cholmondeley Award Winners

Tiffany Atkinson
- £1,680

Tiffany Atkinson is a Norwich-based poet and critic. Her fourth poetry collection, *Lumen* (Bloodaxe Books, 2021) was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. She is Professor of Creative Writing (Poetry) at University of East Anglia, where she convenes the MA in Poetry. She is currently completing a monograph on poetry, embarrassment and ethics.

'Tiffany Atkinson's poetry is penetrating and witty with a strong sense of the absurd. Her images stun in their originality. She is sharply clever, but always more than clever, and her writing addresses very recognisably what it is to be human. Two very different sequences, 'Catulla' and 'Dolorimeter', are outstanding.'

Moniza Alvi

Menna Elfyn
- £1,680

Menna Elfyn is an award-winning Welsh poet and playwright. She has published 15 collections of poetry, children's novels, libretti for UK and US composers, stage, television and radio plays. *Murmur* (Bloodaxe Books, 2012) was a Poetry Book Society Recommended Translation. *Bondo* (Bloodaxe Books) was published in 2017 and a literary memoir *Cennad*, 2018. She has been translated into 20 languages and is Professor Emerita of Poetry at University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

'Menna Elfyn is a major figure in contemporary Welsh poetry, writing exclusively in Welsh. A true internationalist, her work has been translated into over eighteen languages. Her most recent bilingual collections in Welsh and English are published by Bloodaxe. Elfyn writes about the intimate and every day, the natural world and about women's experiences, always able to transform her awareness of the small, and the beautiful, to the affective and often, then, the political. Her voice is challenging and compassionate by turn, unafraid of joy, and full of the energies of community, offering through the power of language, truth, consolation, and possibility.'

Deryn Reese-Jones

The Cholmondeley Award Winners

David Kinloch
- £1,680

David Kinloch was born, brought up and educated in Glasgow. He is the author of five full collections of poems, mostly published by Carcanet. His next book, *Greengown: New and Selected Poems* (Carcanet) will appear in November, 2022. David helped to set up both the Scottish Writers' Centre and The Edwin Morgan Trust and is an emeritus professor of poetry at the University of Strathclyde. His website is www.davidkinloch.co.uk

'Kinloch's work is a decades-long body of rich and varied poetry. He was one of the first UK poets to bear witness to the AIDs crisis. For many years a lecturer in French, his engagement with French poetry is profound and has brought a unique sensibility to bear on Anglophone poetry. Later work has taken different directions, from public and humorous poetry, to a sensitive, contemplative approach.'

Hannah Lowe

Gerry Loose
- £1,680

Gerry Loose is a poet living on the Isle of Bute. As well as his many publications, his work is also to be found inscribed on stone in Botanic Gardens, hospitals, schools and other public places.

'Gerry Loose is a quietly stated poet who has produced a distinguished body of peaceful but powerful poetry. His work is more grounded in gardens and trees, and associated ecological concerns, than in literary scenes. He has described himself as a 'slow nomad' and his poetry clings to fragile environmental niches, from the shadows of the nuclear submarine base at Faslane to the shelter offered by translated oghams. A distinctive presence both in Scottish poetry and international poetry, the singular trajectory of his work has steadily come to seem urgent and prescient, a kind of poetry that is now more needed than ever.'

Drew Milne

The Cholmondeley Award Winners

Maggie O'Sullivan
- £1,680

Maggie O'Sullivan has performed her work and published internationally since the late 1970s. Her works are published by the finest independent presses. Her most recent book work is *courtship of lapwings (if p then q, 2021)*. She is based in West Yorkshire.

*'Maggie O'Sullivan is a poet who is also a performer and visual artist. Her poetry develops out of modernist traditions of radical writing and artistic practice. Although her poetry has been compared to poets as different as Gertrude Stein, Basil Bunting, Bob Cobbing, Lorine Niedecker and Bruce Andrews, her work offers something more unprecedented. She develops a kind of feminist shamanic poetics that is full of verbal play, musical invention and sonic surprises. As well as editing the path-breaking anthology *Out of Everywhere (Reality Street, 1995)*, she has published numerous books and collections, and has long been a beacon of innovation and musicality for younger poets.'*

Drew Milne

The Eric Gregory Awards

Founded 58 years ago by publisher Dr Eric Lund Gregory

For poets under the age of 30

The total award fund for 2022 is £28,350

Judges: Raymond Antrobus, Wayne Holloway Smith, Sarah Howe, Gwyneth Lewis, Roger Robinson, Joelle Taylor.

I was very impressed by the standard of entries to this year's awards, and glad to discover so many voices hitherto unknown to me. We read collections by a host of accomplished writers: their approaches to making poems were various, inventive, defamiliarizing, compelling. The poets who made it to the final seven are the ones whose work at first stood out and then endured after successive encounters: I can't wait to see what they do next.

Sarah Howe

The Eric Gregory Award Winners

Joe Carrick-Varty
for *Sky doc* - £4,050

Joe Carrick-Varty is a British-Irish writer, poet and co-founder of bath magg. He is the author of two pamphlets of poetry: *Somewhere Far* (The Poetry Business, 2019) and *54 Questions for the Man Who Sold a Shotgun to my Father* (Out-Spoken Press, 2020). His poems have appeared in Poetry Review, Poetry Ireland Review and the New Statesman. In 2018 he won the New Poets Prize, and in 2019 Poetry Ireland named him one of Ireland's most exciting new poets. His Debut collection is forthcoming in 2023.

'Sky doc is a compact, complex lyric work that bravely weaves suicidal idealation, family history, education and British class tensions throughout. Heavy themes but written with character and clear playful language. All of the judges were impressed with this bold, compelling work.'

Raymond Antrobus

Courtney Conrad
for *Revelations* - £4,050

Courtney Conrad is a Jamaican poet who explores the intersectionality of religion, sexuality and migration. She is a member of The London Library Emerging Writers Programme 2021, Barbican Young Poets 2021 and alumna of Malika's Poetry Kitchen, Obsidian Foundation and Roundhouse Poetry Collective, 2021 Bridport Prize Young Writers Award recipient, shortlistee for The White Review Poet's Prize 2020 and longlistee for the Rebecca Swift Women Poets' Prize 2020 and The Rialto Nature and Place Poetry Competition 2021. Her poems have appeared in The White Review, Magma Poetry, Stand Magazine, Poetry Wales and Poetry Birmingham Literary Journal.

'Revelations is a stunning and realised poetic voice at work. Writing through the lyric / narrative tensions of sexuality / violence / intimacy / alienation / English / Jamaican Patois. There is so much charge in this work. This poet is a revelation.'

Raymond Antrobus

The Eric Gregory Award Winners

Jack Cooper

for *Break the Nose of Every Beautiful Thing*
- £4,050

Jack Cooper has had poems recently published by *Ambit*, *Popshot*, *Stand*, *Poetry Birmingham*, and *Under the Radar*. He has performed on BBC CWR and BBC Hereford and Worcester radio. He is a Master's student at the University of Warwick, researching embryonic cell migration. He has previously worked as a Research Technician at the University of Oxford, where he also obtained a Bachelor's degree in Cell and Systems Biology.

'It can be said that the power of poetry can be in it's clashing of two unlike things and finding ways to connect the likenesses between them. In the case of Jack Cooper's Break the Nose Of Every Beautiful Thing this idea of poetry is constantly put to the test. It does this through the use of constantly comparing visual ideas, striking lines and syntactical arrangements that constantly wrong foot the reader in a good way. So even at the level of the line we are experiencing these breakages of perception, and in this fracture and repair there is beauty.'

Roger Robinson

Daniella Fearon

for *Beyond The Monochrome Lens*
- £4,050

Daniella Fearon is a South London poet who studied BA English with Creative Writing at Goldsmiths College and MA Poetry at Roehampton University. The main thematic concerns of her poetry include identity, racial equality and social change. She seeks to provide insights into the challenges faced by people of dual heritage and under-represented groups. Her poetry has been published in Roehampton university magazine *Roey Writes*, the Roehampton Showcase and *Blaze*, an ekphrastic anthology after Bridget Riley inspired by a Hayward Gallery exhibition. She draws inspiration from arts, theatre and culture; she currently works as a library assistant at University of the Arts, London.

'Beyond the Monochrome Lens is, simultaneously, many histories told straight and slant as it grapples with class, the language of dual heritage and coming of age in the English education system. Written with an intimate telling / retelling of family / Black Britishness. This is a talent with a wide future in English language poetry. I can't wait to see / hear how this voice develops.'

Raymond Antrobus

The Eric Gregory Award Winners

Maisie Newman

for *Our Names Were Oil*
- £4,050

Maisie Newman is a Bristol based writer, performance director and artist who studied at Liverpool Hope (BA) and Oxford University (MFA). She was named proxime accessit for The Rex Warner prize for poetry and recently published 'A Book of Visions' with Book Works (2021). Their writing and artworks have also been exhibited at Caraboo projects, Bristol.

'Our Names Were Oil is an ode to all peoples forced to leave their lands through the lens of the dispersion of Jewish Diaspora. Maisie Newman creates a mythology of the rigour and mental fracture of having to be on the move. It makes us witness and feel deeply how it might feel being forced to leave; but also how to keep living while leaving; and how to commemorate the land that's been left through symbology for future generations.'

Roger Robinson

Rhiya Pau

for *Routes* - £4,050

Rhiya Pau is a British-born poet of Indian heritage from a community that has a rich history of migration. She writes to chronicle the stories of her community and narrate the exploration of her own identity through the lenses of travel, food, ritual and language. She is the Platinum Poetry winner in the 2021 Creative Futures Writers' Awards and has work upcoming in Arachne Press' anthology *Where We Find Ourselves*. Her debut collection, *Routes*, releases in 2022 to commemorate 50 years since her family migrated to the UK. Rhiya holds a BA from the University of Oxford and is a Poetry Reader at the Adroit Journal.

'To avoid tectonic shifts of the palate: / chew on the bark of the neem twig': Routes holds up to the light the wisdom of the past, and asks what else is passed down along with it. This is a collection in which routes and roots tug against one another: a family is scattered in the wake of India's Partition; its children and grandchildren make new homes for themselves within a kaleidoscope of tongues. This is a work of humane intelligence, formal experiment and linguistic verve that promises much.'

Sarah Howe

The Eric Gregory Award Winners

Stephanie Sy-Quia
for *Amnion* - £4,050

Stephanie Sy-Quia is a writer, critic, and printmaker based in London. Her writing has appeared in the TLS, Guardian, Granta, Financial Times, and others. She is a member of the Ledbury Critics Programme and has twice been shortlisted for the FT Bodley Head Essay Prize. She studied English at Oxford.

'Extracted from a much longer work, this glimpse of Amnion is a marvel of linguistic invention, innovative storytelling and historical imagination. Excavating the strata of a self down the generations and across continents, through languages and lineages, this poet of multiple inheritances builds a 'cathedral for all my colonialisms'. Its unique blend of narrative, lyric, and essayistic enquiry heralds an essential new voice in poetry.'

The Judges

The Betty Trask Prize and Awards

Established from a bequest for writers under 35 in 1983

For traditional, romantic, non-experimental first novels

The total prize and award fund for 2022 is £26,250

Judges: Sara Collins, Michael Donkor, and Alex Preston

2019 Shortlist

A.K. Blakemore *The Manningtree Witches* (Granta)

Natasha Brown *Assembly* (Penguin Random House)

Will McPhail *IN: The Graphic Novel* (Hodder)

Caleb Azumah Nelson *Open Water* (Penguin Random House)

Megan Nolan *Acts of Desperation* (Penguin Random House)

I am thrilled with our list of winners! While the selection is varied in tone, style and subject, these works certainly share a daring playfulness. Perhaps above all, lingering emotional intensity is a hallmark of the novels here.

Michael Donkor

The Betty Trask Prize Winner

Will McPhail

for *IN: The Graphic Novel*
- £10,000

Will McPhail has been contributing cartoons, sketchbooks, and humour pieces to the New Yorker since 2014. His work has also been published in Private Eye and the New Statesman. In 2013 he won the British Cartoonists' Association's Young Cartoonist of the Year and the NCS Reuben Award for Gag Cartoonist of the Year in 2016. He lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.

'A beautiful and impeccably crafted narrative, In is a graphic novel that is visually delightful and psychologically profound. A mischievous sense of humour is McPhail's trademark here; his knowing protagonist pierces the pretences of contemporary social mores as he falteringly tries to become a better version of himself. In addition to salty satire, there's great sensitivity too: McPhail's characterisation has an intimacy and warmth that makes the unexpected events towards the end of the novel even more affecting. His commentary on the difficulties of expression and emotional transparency is nuanced, wise and generous.'

Michael Donkor

The Betty Trask Award Winners

A.K. Blakemore

for *The Manningtree Witches* - £4,050

A.K. Blakemore is the author of two full-length collections of poetry: *Humbert Summer* (Eyewear, 2015) and *Fondue* (Offord Road Books, 2018), which was awarded the 2019 Ledbury Forte Prize for Best Second Collection. She has also translated the work of Sichuanese poet Yu Yoyo (*My Tenantless Body*, Poetry Translation Centre, 2019). Her poetry and prose writing has been widely published and anthologised, appearing in The London Review of Books, Poetry, Poetry Review and The White Review, among others.

'I just wanted to bathe in the beautiful language of this book. Historical fiction is so difficult to get right – it relies on a simulacrum of authentic language, on the investment of words and objects with a kind of magical historical aura. Blakemore hits every note in this sumptuous and hugely engaging novel.'

Alex Preston

The Betty Trask Award Winners

Natasha Brown
for *Assembly* - £4,050

Natasha Brown has spent a decade working in financial services, after studying Maths at Cambridge University. She developed *Assembly* after receiving a 2019 London Writers Award in the literary fiction category.

'What a fine, slim, sad book. Natasha Brown manages to do more in 112 pages than others do in five hundred. More than anything, this is a novel about race and social justice that is never didactic or obvious, but rather makes the reader live the pain and frustration of its unnamed protagonist. Breathtaking.'

Alex Preston

Caleb Azumah Nelson
for *Open Water* - £4,050

Caleb Azumah Nelson is a British-Ghanaian writer and photographer living in South East London. His writing has been published in Litro. He was recently shortlisted for the Palm Photo Prize and won the People's Choice prize. *Open Water* is his first novel.

'A love story of extraordinary grace and poise. Again, what struck me about this book was the elegance and efficiency, the way so much life and love and sadness was crammed into a slim volume.'

Alex Preston

The Betty Trask Award Winners

Megan Nolan

for *Acts of Desperation*
- £4,050

Megan Nolan lives in London and was born in 1990 in Waterford, Ireland. Her essays, fiction and reviews have been published in The New York Times, The White Review, The Sunday Times, The Village Voice, The Guardian and in the literary anthology, Winter Papers. She writes a fortnightly column for the New Statesman. This is her first novel.

'Nolan's novel is an unflinching investigation of self-destructive tendencies, misogyny, abuse and the pursuit of self-acceptance. It's so powerful in its exploration of the darkest and most brutal elements of sexual relationships. The complex feelings readers will necessarily have towards the wandering, reckless, broken and brilliant protagonist here is an arresting feature of this work.'

Michael Donkor

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Entries for the 2023 Society of Authors' Awards are invited from August 2022.

LIST OF WINNERS AND RUNNERS UP

Alice Albinia
David Annand
Tiffany Atkinson
Caleb Azumah Nelson
A.K. Blakemore
Maame Blue
John Broadley
Linda Brogan
Natasha Brown
Joe Carrick-Varty
Alistair Chisholm
Tice Cin
Jack Cooper
Courtney Conrad
Kanya D'Almeida
Menna Elfyn
Maia Elsner

Daniella Fearon
Jane Fraser
Dean Gessie
Mick Jackson
Ben Judah
David Kinloch
Sheila Llewellyn
Gerry Loose
Michael Mallon
Ayisha Malik
Will McPhail
Dylan Moore
Maisie Newman
Megan Nolan
Jamie O'Connell
Maggie O'Sullivan
Lucia Osborne-
Crowley
Rhiya Pau

David Roberts
Stephanie Sy-Quia
Lisa Taddeo

LIST OF SHORTLISTEES

Oona Aristide
Sheila Armstrong
Yvonne Bailey-Smith
Claire-Louise Bennett
Anthony English
John Fletcher
Monika Forsberg
David Frankel
Chris Haughton
Matthew Hodson
Tessa McWatt
Catherine Menon
Celeste Mohammed

Olivia Sudjic
Dr Meredith L. Rowe
Ben Tufnell
Roland Watson-Grant
Rachel Yoder

LIST OF JUDGES

Tahmima Anam
Moniza Alvi
Raymond Antrobus
Caroline Brothers
Mavis Cheek
Lauren Child
Sara Collins
Fred D'Aguiar
Selma Dabbagh
Michael Donkor
Aida Edemariam
Rebecca Foster

Claire Fuller
Gabriel Gbadamosi
Kelleigh Greenberg-
Jephcott
Sophie Haydock
Philip Hensher
Wayne Holloway
Smith
Petr Horáček
Sarah Howe
Aamer Hussein
Anietie Isong
Billy Kahora
Patrice Lawrence
Gwyneth Lewis
Hannah Lowe
Anne McElvoy
Drew Milne
Denise Mina

Abir Mukherjee
Donald S. Murray
Alex Preston
Deryn Rees-Jones
Nick Rennison
Roger Robinson
Joelle Taylor
Ardashir Vakil
Mary Watson
Roseanne Watt

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About the Society of Authors

The Society of Authors is the UK trade union for all types of writers, illustrators and literary translators at all stages of their careers. We have been advising individuals and speaking out for the profession for more than a century.

We administer prizes and awards to support and celebrate authors of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, literary translation, historical biography, audio drama and educational writing. In addition to this evening's prizes, we manage The Sunday Times Charlotte Aitken Trust Young Writer of the Year Award, numerous prizes for literary translation, and the ALCS Educational Writers' Award. Each year we also distribute a range of grants for works in progress and for authors in need.



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