

Welcome

For the cover of this year's festival programme we have an image of one of the several renderings of Teucer fashioned by the mostly Victorian British sculptor W. Hamo Thornycroft. Thornycroft was maternal uncle to the great war poet Siegfried Sassoon. His studies of the famed archer from the Iliad date to the beginning of the last century. The Tate in London has a bronze. The version pictured here from the collection of the Crawford, Cork, is a no less splendid plaster original, subtly different in pose from the Bronze and more discretely attired.

In the Iliad only the repeated interventions of a super-powered divinity could prevent Teucer from killing his maternal uncle, Hector. The example of Teucer (a Greek with a Trojan mother) shows that even transnational conflicts can be at their very basis fratricidal. The Iliad also reminds us that poetry has been concerned with the theme of war since earliest times, reminds us that war has always been with us and tragically, is unlikely to be eradicated during any of our lifetimes.

Many of the poets gathered in this programme have written substantially about war, about imperialism, post-colonialism and general physical threat. They have also written about other matters, for all of life goes into poetry. Thornycroft and Sassoon were born into the Belle Époque, when war in a globalised form was absent from the homelands of the Western nations, nations which had waged utter devastating, internecine war earlier in the 19th Century. People must have thought, a few years before the Great War, that peace would last for ever. But peace had existed across the globe only in pockets. Interminable were the military actions of conquest and oppression waged by the great powers against less technologically-endowed polities; military actions which we can now see were mere rehearsals for the massive destruction those great powers would wield on one another. The technologically-endowed appear not to have changed their behaviour in our century.

In 2023 we stand at another crossroads, a period which might be retrospectively defined as a new Belle Époque, determined to terminate itself, where peace has never been ubiquitous but where uncalculated massive destruction threatens us all. Leon Trotsky was not a poet but could have been when he said: "You might not be interested in war, but war is interested in you."

Poetry makes nothing happen – at least not the 'happen' that bullets make, but it allows us to sing amidst the advancing gloom, to remind us of what we have to lose and of the pains we stand to unprofitably gain. While we render our poems, we will not render ourselves up for sacrifice.

Patrick Cotter
poet, festival director

  /munsterliteraturecentre
 /munlitcentre
#CorkPoetryFest23



Bookings

Bookings can be made by credit card through the website www.corkpoetryfest.net until Sunday 30th April. Bookings by cheque to the Munster Literature Centre will also be accepted up to this date. Thereafter, all purchases must be made at the Cork Arts Theatre in person, by phone (021 450 5624) or online (www.corkartstheatre.com). Admission may be blocked after an event begins. Refunds will be given only if an event is cancelled.

Munster Literature Centre | Ionad Litríocht an Deiscirt

Address: Frank O'Connor House, 84 Douglas Street, Cork, Ireland, T12X802

Phone: +353 (0)21 4322396

Email: info@munsterlit.ie

Pay through credit card/PayPal at

www.corkpoetryfest.net



MUNSTER LITERATURE CENTRE
Ionad Litríochta an Deisceart

Workshops

Early booking is advised. Contact info@munsterlit.ie for booking enquiries and visit www.corkpoetryfest.net for more detailed workshop descriptions and the most up-to-date information on availability.

The cost is €150 for all three masterclasses or €75 individually.

If you sign up for an individual masterclass, you will be put on a waiting list as priority will be given to those who sign up for all three.

Priority will be given to those who have two poem publication credits.

Each participant will have the opportunity to have one of their poems (of up to forty lines) discussed in a very small class where each person's work will receive much individual attention. They will submit their poem in advance.

Valzhyna Mort Masterclass

(see page 45 for biography)

9.30am to 12.30pm Thursday 18th May

Munster Literature Centre, 84 Douglas Street, T12X802 | Limited to 8 participants

A. E. Stallings Masterclass

(see page 39 for biography)

9.30am to 12.30pm Friday 19th May

Munster Literature Centre, 84 Douglas Street, T12X802 | Limited to 8 participants

Toby Rivas de la Martinez Masterclass

(see page 38 for biography)

9.30am to 12.30pm Saturday 20th May

Munster Literature Centre, 84 Douglas Street, T12X802 | Limited to 8 participants

Programme Outline

Tuesday 16th – Saturday 20th May

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#CorkPoetryFest23

Tuesday 16th

6.30pm, Farmgate Café | Free but ticketed (Eventbrite) page 8

The Farmgate Café National Poetry Award

Wednesday 17th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 10

Eibhlís Carcione & Kevin Graham

(moderated by Paul Casey)

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 12

Geraldine Mitchell & Mark Roper

(moderated by Afric McGlinchey)

7.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 14

Jodie Hollander & Luke Morgan

(moderated by Matthew Geden)

8.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 16

John Kelly & Aleš Šteger

(moderated by Keith Payne)

10.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 18

John FitzGerald & Ailbhe Ní Gearbhuigh

(moderated by Cliona Ní Ríordáin)

**For the latest news regarding workshop
availability visit www.corkpoetryfest.net**

Thursday 18th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 20

John W. Sexton & Julijana Velickovska

(moderated by Afric McGlinchey)

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 22

Iva Damjanovski & Matthew Geden

(moderated by Paul Casey)

7.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 24

Mark Pajak & Paul Tran

(moderated by James O'Leary)

8.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 26

Katie Farris & Ilya Kaminsky

(moderator TBA)

10.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 28

Harry Clifton & Carolyn Forché

(moderated by Thomas McCarthy)

Programme Outline

Tuesday 16th – Saturday 20th May

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Friday 19th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 30

Morten Langeland & Victoria Melkovska

(moderated by Matthew Geden)

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 32

Prebooked Poetry Introductions

(moderated by Kate Moore)

7.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 34

Maura Dooley & Ceaití Ní Bheildiúin

(moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin)

8.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 36

Eva Bourke & Fran Lock

(moderated by Paul Casey)

10.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 38

Toby Rivas de la Martinez & A. E. Stallings

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

**For the latest news regarding workshop
availability visit www.corkpoetryfest.net**

Saturday 20th

3.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 40

Fool for Poetry & Gregory O'Donoghue Prize Readings

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

4.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 42

Aneas Showcase

(moderated by Simon Ó Faoláin)

7.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 44

Polina Barskova & Valzhyna Mort

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

8.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 46

Tom French & Suji Kwock Kim

(moderated by Cliona Ní Riordáin)

10.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 48

Poetry in a Time of War – What Use Is Poetry?

With Carolyn Forché, Suji Kwock Kim & Milica Mijatović

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

Award Presentation

The Farmgate Café National Poetry Award

Tuesday 16th 6.30pm **Farmgate Café** | Free but ticketed (Eventbrite)



The Farmgate Café National Poetry Award was established in 2019 with sponsorship from one of Cork's most loved restaurants, The Farmgate Café. The partnership between the Munster Literature Centre and the Farmgate received the Business to Arts 2019 Best Small Sponsorship Award.

Revived in 2023, the award will be €2000 for the best full-length poetry collection in English (including translations from other languages) published in 2022, by a poet residing in Ireland. Judges this year were Colm Breathnach, Eleanor Hooker and Thomas McCarthy. Limited places are available for a cosy reception at the Farmgate where the winning poet will receive their prize and present a short reading.

FOOL FOR POETRY INTERNATIONAL CHAPBOOK COMPETITION

1ST PRIZE: €1,000

2ND PRIZE: €500

BOTH WINNERS RECEIVE:

- CHAPBOOK PUBLICATION
- 25 COMPLEMENTARY COPIES
- READING & 3 NIGHTS ACCOMMODATION
AT OUR 2024 POETRY FESTIVAL



ENTRANCE FEE: €25

MANUSCRIPT LENGTH: 16 - 23 PAGES

DEADLINE: AUGUST 31ST 2023

SUBMIT AT WWW.MUNSTERLIT.IE

Reading & Discussion

Eibhlís Carcione (Ireland) & Kevin Graham (Ireland) Moderated by Paul Casey

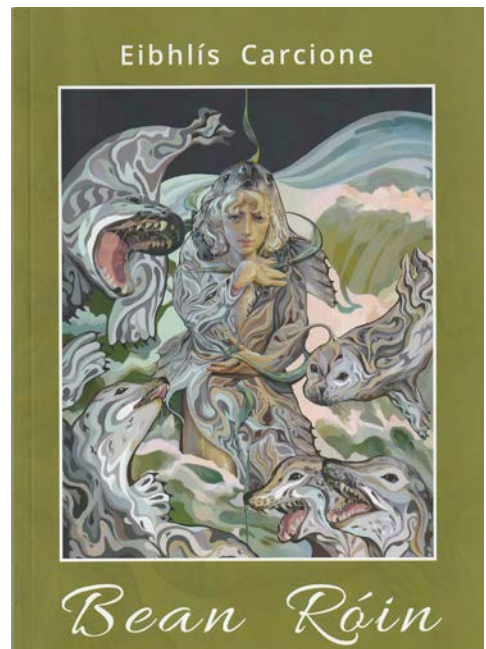
Wednesday 17th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



Eibhlís Carcione is a bilingual poet and children's author from Cork. Her three poetry collections in Irish, *Tonn Chliodbna* (2015), *Eala Oíche* (2019), and *Bean Róin* (2023), are published by Coiscéim. She has won numerous awards for her poetry including Duais Fhoras na Gaeilge (Listowel Writer's Week), Comórtas Filíochta Fhéile Raifteirí and Comórtas Filíochta, Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, Belfast. She was awarded an Arts Council literature bursary in 2021. Her debut MG novel *Welcome to Dead Town Raven McKay* will be published on the 1st June 2023 by Everything With Words.

*“Tá Cuma dhúchasach,
fhréamhaithe sa traidisiún ar
na dánta i dteannta na húire.
Tá a leagan féin d’eispéaras
na teagmhála leis an mbás
agus le taibhsí cruthaithe ag
an bhfile a chanann amach le
guth sainiúil.”*

— Máire Ní Annracháin



Kevin Graham lives with his family in Dublin and works in risk, specializing in environmental liability. He graduated from DCU with a BSc in Applied Computational Linguistics. His poems have appeared widely in print as well as on radio and he has received Literature Bursaries from the Arts Council of Ireland. His debut collection is *The Lookout Post* with The Gallery Press.



THE LOOKOUT POST

Kevin Graham



“For years now, Kevin Graham’s formal skill and emotional power have marked him out as a rare poetic talent.”
— Ciarán O’Rourke

Reading & Discussion

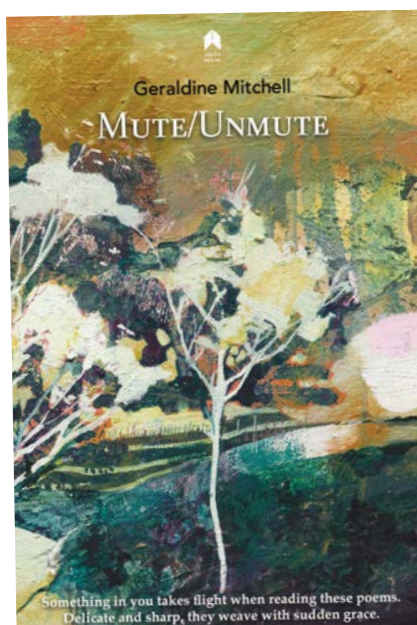
Geraldine Mitchell (Ireland) & Mark Roper (UK / Ireland) Moderated by Afric McGlinchey

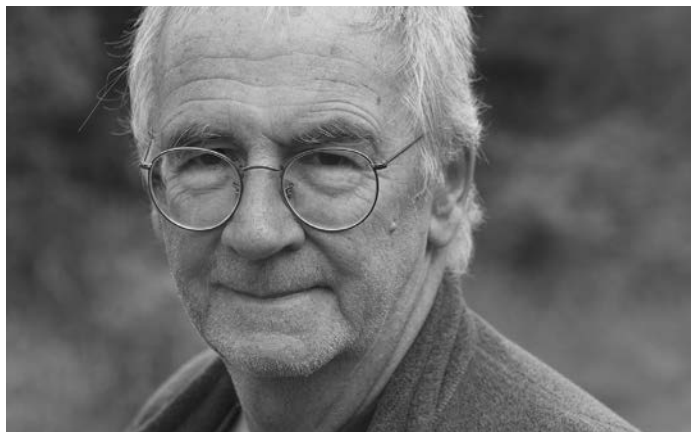
Wednesday 17th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



Geraldine Mitchell is a Dublin-born poet and writer who has been living on the Mayo coast for several years, after a career combining teaching and freelance journalism in France and Spain. Her fourth collection, *Mute/Unmute*, was published in 2020. Geraldine is a Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award winner. Other awards include the inaugural Trócaire-Poetry Ireland poetry prize and second place in the 2021 Troubadour International Poetry Competition. Her previous collections are *Mountains for Breakfast* (2017), *Of Birds and Bones* (2014) and *World Without Maps* (2011). Geraldine has also written two novels for young readers and a biography.

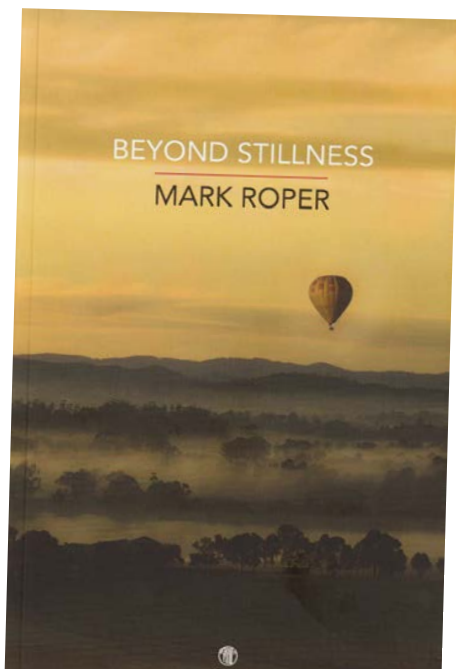
*“These poems listen, watch
and unearth a voice for the
voiceless ... An assured and
powerful collection, Mute/
Unmute is contemporary
poetry at its best.”*
— Elaine Feeney





Mark Roper's latest collection, *Beyond Stillness*, came out in October 2022. *Bindweed*, 2017, was shortlisted for The Irish Times Poetry Now Award. *A Gather of Shadow*, 2012, was also shortlisted for that Award and won the Michael Hartnett Award in 2014. With photographer Paddy Dwan, he has published *The River Book*, *The Backstrand*, and *Comeragh*. A fourth book, about the County Waterford coastline, will be out in October 2023. Mark has written two librettos for operas composed by the late Eric Sweeney.

He was Editor of *Poetry Ireland* for 1999. He was awarded Arts Council Bursaries in 2010, 2013 and 2016.



"Roper's voice remains level, calmly attentive, concerned less with its own formal qualities than with the things of this world to which it ascribes an absolute value."

— Caitríona O'Reilly

Reading & Discussion

Jodie Hollander (USA) & Luke Morgan (Ireland) Moderated by Matthew Geden

Wednesday 17th 7.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

Jodie Hollander's work has appeared in journals such as *The Poetry Review*, *The Yale Review*, *The Harvard Review*, *PN Review*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Poetry London*, *The Hudson Review*, *The Dark Horse*, and *The Best Australian Poems*. Her debut full-length collection, *My Dark Horses*, was published with Liverpool University Press & Oxford University Press in 2017. Her second collection, *Nocturne*, will be published with the Liverpool & Oxford University Press in the spring of 2023. Hollander is the recipient of a MacDowell fellowship and a Fulbright fellowship in South Africa. She is also the originator of 'Poetry in the Parks,' in conjunction with several National Parks and Monuments in the US. She lives in Flagstaff, Arizona.

PHOTOGRAPHER: JOANNA ELDREDGE MORRISSY



Nocturne

JODIE
HOLLANDER

*"In Jodie Hollander's poems,
it is always monsoon season.
Things come crashing down
from the sky – pianos,
coconuts, kangaroos, telephone
receivers – into a fragile
world, and the poems look up
from the debris, changed."*
— Caroline Bird

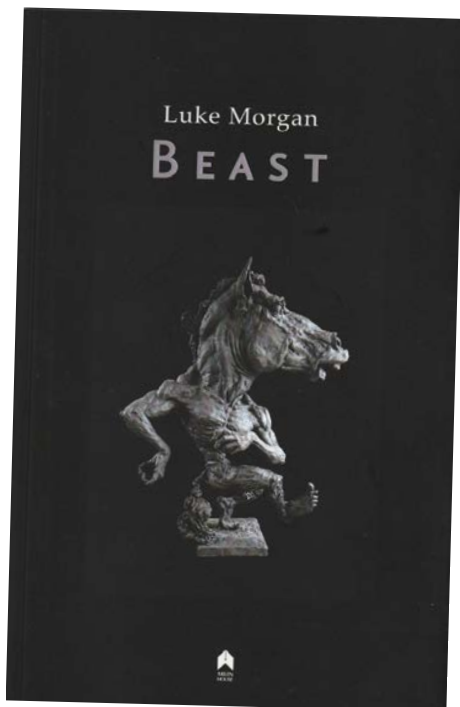


PHOTOGRAPHER: JULIA DUNIN



“These poems are unsettling and constantly surprising, taking the reader on an unforgettable shapeshifting journey after which they are utterly and inescapably transformed.”
— Victoria Kennefick

Luke Morgan’s second collection, *Beast*, was published by Arlen House in 2022 and described in the *Irish Times* as showing “a real ambition” with “striking, energetic imagination”. His debut, *Honest Walls*, was published in 2016. He has new poetry forthcoming from various journals at home and abroad in 2023. As well as poetry, he is also an award-winning filmmaker. He lives in Galway.



Reading & Discussion

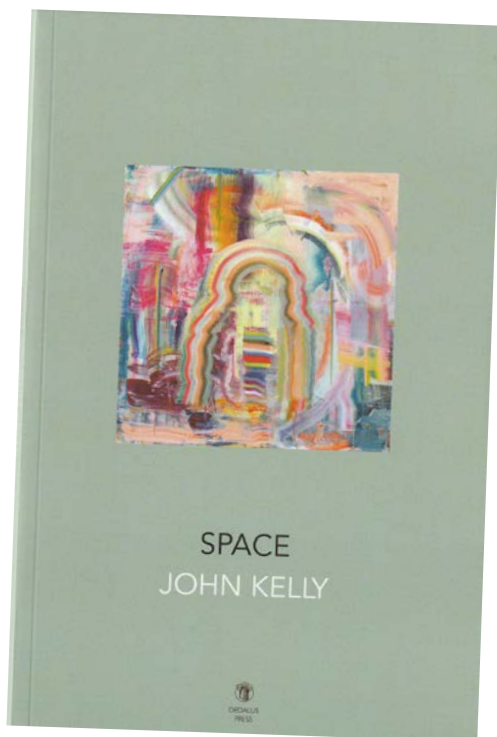
John Kelly (Ireland) & Aleš Šteger (Slovenia) Moderated by Keith Payne

Wednesday 17th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



John Kelly is from Enniskillen in Co. Fermanagh. His first collection *Notions* was published by Dedalus Press in 2018. A second collection *Space* was published in 2022.

“These are very remarkable and compelling poems. With strong narratives and events, vivid and surprising language, and a marvellous square-on exactness.”
— Bernard O’Donoghue



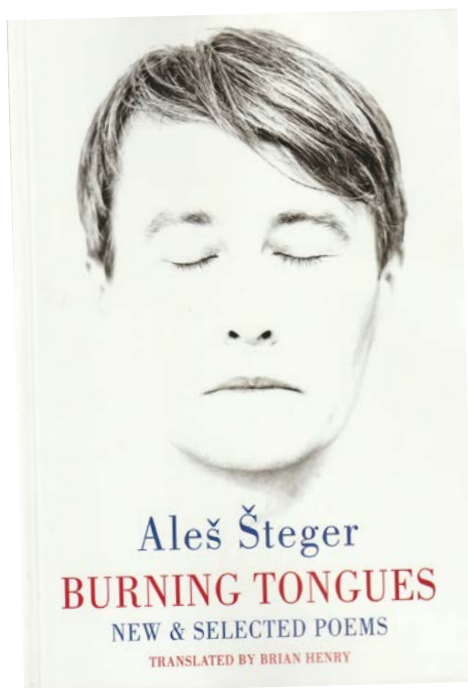
Aleš Šteger is a poet and prose writer from Ljubljana, Slovenia. His books have been translated into over 20 languages. Aleš is the programme director of Beletrina



PHOTOGRAPHER: MANKICA KRANJEC/BELETRINA

Academic Press, which he co-founded 25 years ago. He has initiated and led European-wide art projects, most notably Versopolis – a European platform for emerging poets and international poetry festivals. He received the title Chevalier des Artes et Lettres from the French state and is a member of the Berlin Academy of Arts and of the German Academy for Language and Literature. His latest English book is *Burning Tongues: New and Selected Poems* (Bloodaxe, 2022).

“Emerging in the aftermath of the wars that broke former Yugoslavia into many countries, Šteger has become one of the most significant European poets of the new century. In his hands it is as if poetry were giving up its last secrets.”
— Carolyn Forché



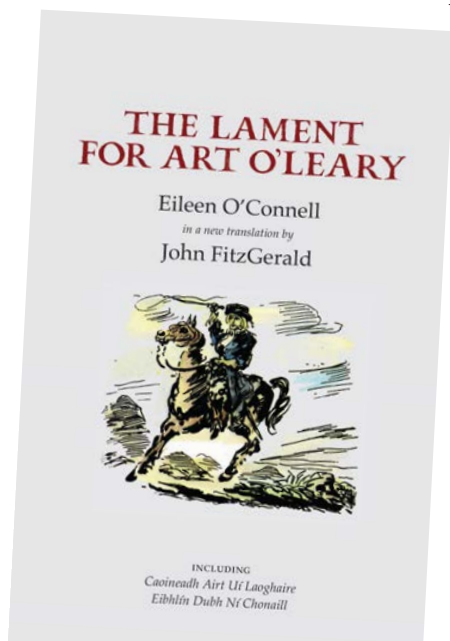
Reading & Discussion

John FitzGerald (Ireland) & Ailbhe Ní Gearbhuigh (Ireland) Moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin

Wednesday 17th 10.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



John FitzGerald's collection *The Time Being* was published by Gallery Press in 2021 and shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney First Collection Prize. In 2023 he will publish a new translation of *The Lament for Art O'Leary*, also with Gallery Press. He has produced two letterpress editions of his work with The Salvage Press, *Haiku na Feirme* (2022) and *Darklight* (2019). He won the Patrick Kavanagh Prize in 2014 and the Atlantic Currents Prize in 2021. He is Executive Producer of six film documentaries and teaches on the MA in Creative Writing programme at University College Cork. He left his post as University Librarian at UCC in 2022 to write full-time.



"I love the thingy-ness of these poems, the thunk and clink and throttle of the actual which is recalled in such clarity the poems actually happen, their transformations spring open. I was moved and stunned."

— Marie Howe

PHOTOGRAPHER: CLARE KEOGH

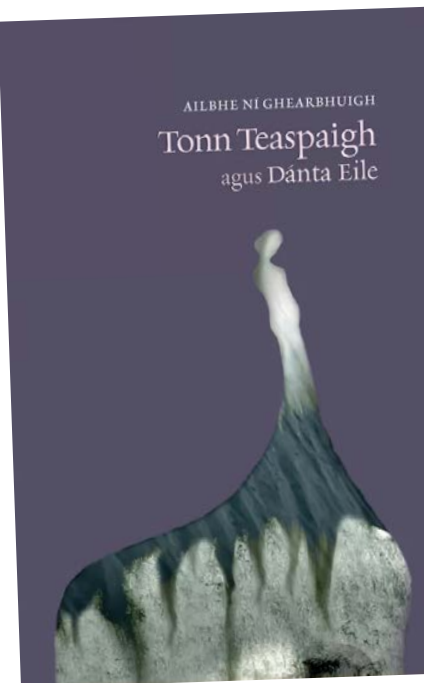


File í **Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh** as Trá Lí i gCo. Chiarraí. Tá trí bhunchnuasaigh foilsithe aici i nGaeilge ó 2008. Ghnóthaigh *Tóst agus Allagar* Duais Uí hAirtneide in 2019. Bronnadh Duais Lawrence O'Shaughnessy ar *The Coast Road* in 2020. D'fhoilsigh Éabhlóid cnuasach úr *Tonn Teapsaigh agus Dánta Eile* anuraidh.

Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh is a poet from Kerry. She has published three collections in Irish since 2008. *Tóst agus Allagar* won the Michael Hartnett Award in 2019 and a bilingual collection, *The Coast Road*, was awarded the Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Prize in 2020. Éabhlóid published *Tonn Teapsaigh agus Dánta Eile* last year.

"She writes about art and artists, mother and baby homes, the death and disappearance of Jean McConville, the whole of humankind in an opus of uncommon dramatic range and searing effect, in a language of feeling and of the heart."

— Michael Hartnett Award Judges



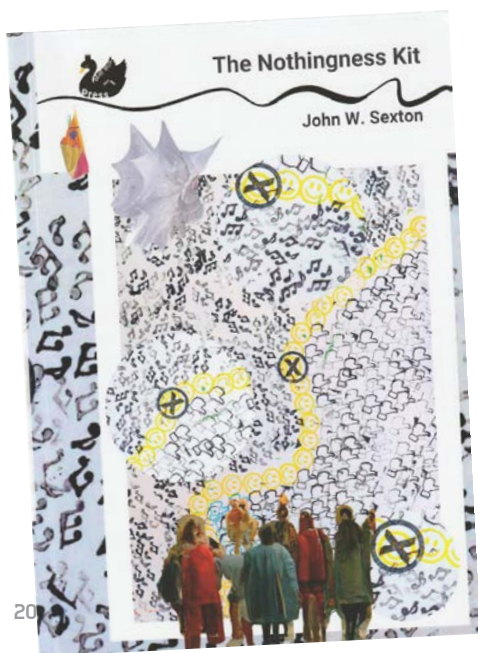
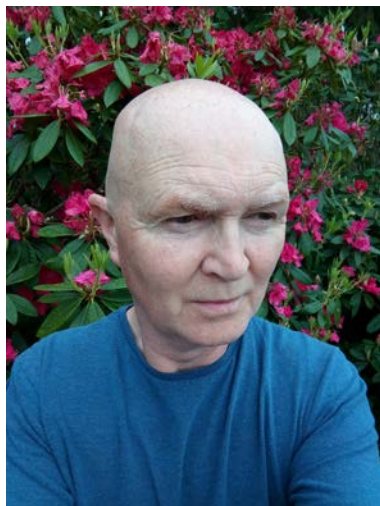
Reading & Discussion

John W. Sexton (Ireland) & Julijana Velickovska (North Macedonia) Moderated by Afric McGlinchey

Thursday 18th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free

John W. Sexton was born in 1958 and identifies with the Aisling poetry tradition. His work spans vision poetry, contemporary fabulism and tangential surrealism. He is the author of eight poetry collections, the most recent being: *The Offspring of the Moon* (Salmon Poetry, 2013), *Futures Pass* (Salmon Poetry, 2018), *Visions at Templeglantine* (Revival Press, 2020) and *The Nothingness Kit* (Beir Bua, 2022).

A chapbook of his surrealist poetry, *Inverted Night*, came out from SurVision in April 2019. In 2007 he was awarded a Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship in Poetry.



“...a dense forest of wordplay, a pungent pastoral through which figures from myth, folklore and popular culture skip, stumble and thread their way.”
— Kit Fryatt



Cultúr Éireann
Culture Ireland

Julijana Velichkovska

(1982, Skopje, Macedonia) is a publisher, poetry festival organizer, translator, writer, and editor. She is the program director of Velestovo Poetry Night Festival, Ohrid; she is the founder of the publishing house PNV Publikacii, Skopje, and a co-founder and director of the Skopje



Poetry Festival. She is a member of the Macedonian Writers' Association. She is the author of two poetry books, a novel, a children's book, a monograph and twenty-six translated books from English, Russian, Croatian and Montenegrin. Her poetry is translated into twenty world languages, and her novel *Seasons* was translated and published in Bulgarian.

*“Негде помеѓу љубовта и
смртта, помеѓу присуството и
отсуството мешајќи, на моменти
непрепознатливи, чудни некои
синоними помеѓу себе.”*

— Мерсиха Исмајлоска

*“Somewhere between love and
death, between presence and absence,
mixing, every once in a while
unrecognizable, strange synonyms.”*

— Mersiha Ismajloska



Reading & Discussion

Iva Damjanovski (North Macedonia) & Matthew Geden (UK / Ireland) Moderated by Paul Casey

Thursday 18th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free

Iva Damjanovski is a poet, pianist and thereminist from Skopje. Currently she is doing a master's degree in Musicology at the University of Trento, Italy and one in Piano Interpretation and Composition at the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University. She has published three poetry books and in 2020 her second poetry book *Hesitation* was awarded the prestigious national award Miladinov Brothers at the Struga Poetry Evenings Festival. Her poetry has been translated into Serbian, Croatian, Slovenian, English, Albanian, Greek, Italian, Spanish, Romanian and Bengali. She is also part of the duo Alembic, whose first album was released in July 2022.



*“Her thought is clear, pure
and focused. And Iva
Damjanovski’s poetic eye
has a rare superpower, she
sees both sides of the coin
at the same time.”*

— Julijana Velichkovska





“His sense of the impermanence of things is uncanny, sifted through images of falling rain and restless sea that pervade the book, but counterbalanced by an exact and loving attention to concrete detail.”
— Theo Dorgan

Matthew Geden was born and brought up in the English Midlands, moving to Kinsale in 1990. His publications include *Fruit* (SurVision Books, 2020) and *The Cloud Architect* (Doire Press, 2022). In 2019 he was Writer in Residence at Nanjing Literature Centre in China and since 2020 he has been Writer in Residence for Cork County Library and Arts Office. He was awarded an Arts Council Literature Bursary in 2022.



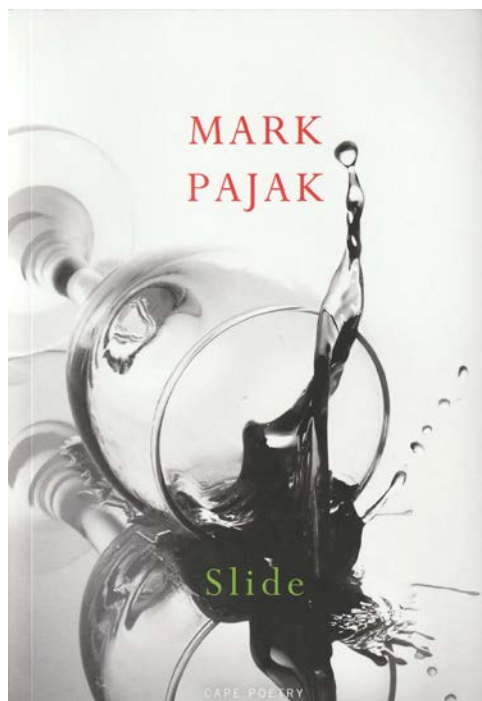
Reading & Discussion

Mark Pajak (UK) & Paul Tran (USA) Moderated by James O'Leary

Thursday 18th 7.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Mark Pajak was born in Merseyside. His work has received numerous awards, including the Bridport Prize and an Eric Gregory Award. His first collection, *Slide*, was shortlisted for the T.S Eliot Prize 2022.

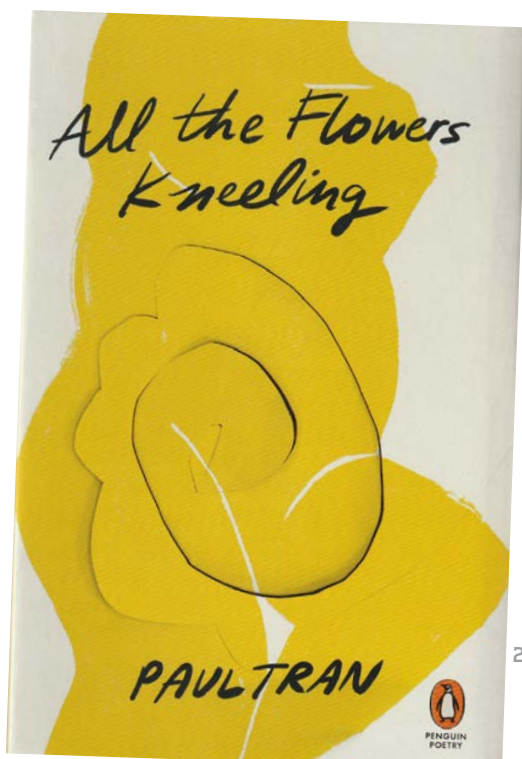


"I was stunned by these poems. Fresh, urgent, alive, awake, with such a strong visceral impact I couldn't sleep ... There is a fierce intelligence at play here, emotional, physical and cerebral. The combination is genius."
— Patience Agbabi



"All the Flowers Kneeling is a gorgeous debut ... Out of violences intimate and imperial, out of survival and self-fashioning, Paul Tran sculpts new forms to contain all. This book is a richness."
— Solmaz Sharif

Paul Tran is the author of the debut poetry collection, *All the Flowers Kneeling*, published by Penguin in the US and the UK. Their work appears in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. Winner of the Discovery/Boston Review Poetry Prize, as well as fellowships from the Poetry Foundation, Stanford University, and the National Endowment for the Arts, Paul is an Assistant Professor of English and Asian American Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Reading & Discussion

Katie Farris (USA) & Ilya Kaminsky (Ukraine / USA) Moderated by TBA

Thursday 18th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Katie Farris is the author of *A Net to Catch My Body in its Weaving*, winner of the 2021 Chad Walsh Poetry Award, and her collection of poems, *Standing in the Forest of Being Alive*, is forthcoming from Alice James Books in 2023. She is also the author of the hybrid-form text *boysgirls*, (Marick Press, 2011; Tupelo Press 2019), and the chapbooks *Thirteen Intimacies* (Fivehundred Places, 2017), and *Mother Superior in Hell* (Dancing Girl, 2019). She is currently Associate Professor of Literature, Media, and Communication at Georgia Institute of Technology.

“Standing In the Forest of Being Alive is an enchanting book of poems that question and praise the body even as it deteriorates. You are holding in your hands words that come across as chants, as spells, as prayer.”
— Jericho Brown

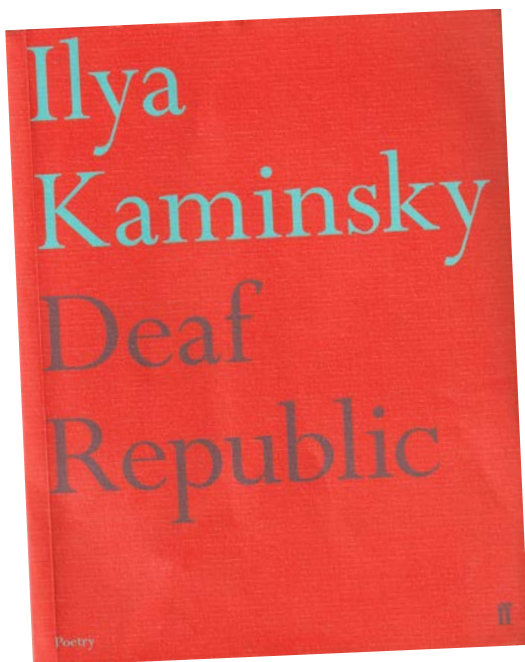




Ilya Kaminsky was born in Odesa, former Soviet Union in 1977, and arrived to the United States in 1993, when his family was granted asylum by the American government. He is the author of *Deaf Republic* (Graywolf Press) and *Dancing In Odessa* (Tupelo Press) and has co-edited and co-translated many other books, including *Ecco Anthology of International Poetry* (Harper Collins) and *Dark Elderberry Branch: Poems of Marina Tsvetaeva* (Alice James Books). He holds the Bourne Chair in Poetry at Georgia Institute of Technology and lives in Atlanta.

“Part folklore, fable, war story and love poem, it imagines an occupied town falling deaf in response to the shooting of a child. Often devastating, always humane, this is a book of the century, let alone this year.”

— Fiona Benson



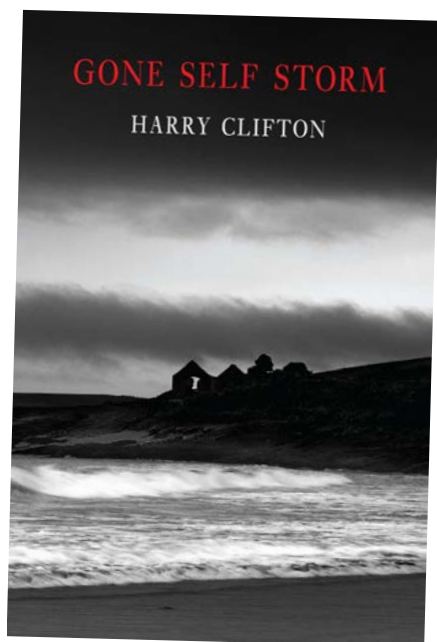
Reading & Discussion

Harry Clifton (Ireland) & Carolyn Forché (USA) Moderated by Thomas McCarthy

Thursday 18th 10.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Harry Clifton was born in Dublin and educated at University College Dublin. After graduating he began an extended period of life outside Ireland, lecturing at a Teacher Training College in West Africa and working as an aid administrator in Indochina. After spells in Italy, England and Germany, he settled with his wife the Irish novelist Deirdre Madden for ten years in Paris, a decade recorded in *Secular Eden: Paris Notebooks 1994–2004* (Wake Forest University Press 2008). Since 2004 he has lived in Ireland, and teaches at Trinity College Dublin.



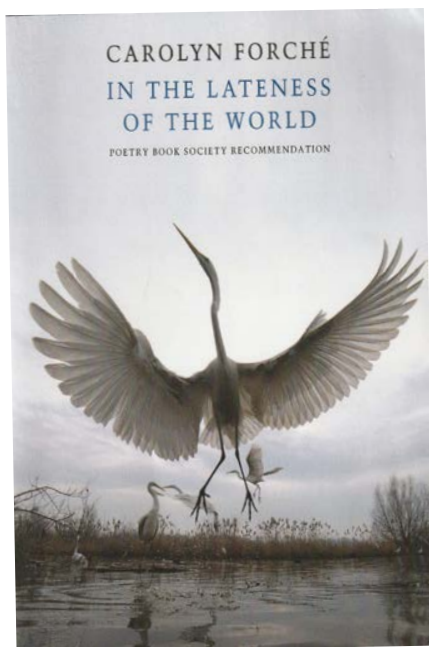
“Soul, song and formal necessity, Clifton has all three – he is one of the poets who matter.”

— Derek Mahon

Carolyn Forché is the author of five award-winning books of poetry. The most recent, *In the Lateness of the World* (Penguin Press, 2020) was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. She is also the author of the memoir *What You Have Heard Is True* (Penguin Press, 2019), a finalist for the National Book Award and winner of the Juan E. Mendez Book Award for Human Rights in Latin America. Her famed international anthology, *Against Forgetting*, has been praised by Nelson Mandela as “itself a blow against tyranny, against prejudice, against injustice.” She is a Distinguished University Professor at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.



“In the Lateness of the World has a global scope and a revelatory quality, as if she is writing from the end times ... Forché’s style is meditative and mystical: this is a poet who lingers and puts pressure on language.”
— Tom Williams



Reading & Discussion

Morten Langeland (Norway) & Victoria Melkovska (Ukraine / Ireland) Moderated by Matthew Geden

Friday 19th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free



*«Han er uten tvil en av de
mest interessante poetene
vi har.»*

*“He is without a doubt
one of the most interesting
poets we have.”*
— Preben Jordal



Morten Langeland (1986) lives and works in Oslo. He has studied comparative literature, creative writing and holds an MFA from the Oslo National Academy of Arts. He is a literature critic for the newspaper *Klassekampen* and teaches poetry at Skrivekunstakademiet in Bergen. He has published five books of poetry and three novels since his debut in 2012. In style they are all marked by a certain playfulness and thematically they try to tackle contemporary issues in idiosyncratic ways. He won “Stig Sæterbakkens Minnepris” in 2016, and the prestigious “Sult-prize” (Hunger-award) in 2021.



Victoria (Vika) Melkovska was born in Ukraine in 1977 and has lived in Dublin since 2003. In Kyiv, she worked as a journalist and hosted many popular radio shows. Later, she reported for the Ukrainian Radio from Dublin and contributed to several Irish newspapers. Her poems have featured on RTÉ Radio and appeared in many publications, including the Dedalus Press anthologies *Writing Home: The 'New Irish' Poets* (2019), *Local Wonders: Poems of Our Immediate Surrounds* (2021), and *The Book of Life: Poems to Tide You Over* (2022).

“Melkovska’s evocative poems bring a fresh, East European perspective to urban Irish life, an eye sharp and hungry for detail ... While there is horror and outrage at the ‘Rashist’ (Russian Fascist) invasion of her original homeland, more personal crises, such as cancer, are met with a stoic, resilient humour.”

— Mark Granier



Reading

Prebooked Poetry Introductions Moderated by Kate Moore

Friday 19th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free



The Prebooked Poetry Introductions involves six individuals who have yet to publish a short chapbook or full-length collection of poems. Each poet, chosen through open submission, will read in a ten-minute reading slot, in many cases availing of their first opportunity to give a reading in a professional setting.

The line-up of chosen poets will be available from April at www.corkpoetryfest.net.

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Reading & Discussion

Maura Dooley (UK) & Ceaití Ní Bheildiúin (Ireland) Moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin

Friday 19th 7.00pm Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5



Maura Dooley's most recent collection, just published, is *Five Fifty-Five* (Bloodaxe). Anthologies she has edited include *The Honey Gatherers: Love Poems* and *How Novelists Work*. She was Poet-in-Residence at the Jane Austen House Museum, Chawton; poems from the residency are published as *A Quire of Paper*. In 2018 she published versions (with Elhum Shakerifar) of work by the exiled Iranian poet Azita Ghahreman, *Negative of a Group Photograph* (Bloodaxe). She teaches at Goldsmiths, University of London.

"Maura Dooley's poetry is remarkable for embracing both lyricism and political consciousness, for its fusion of head and heart."

— Literary Review





Ceaití Ní Bheildiúin is an Irish language poet. Two recent publications now present her in translation. *Let the Hare Sit / Lig don nGiorria Súi* (Dedalus Press, 2022) is a bilingual volume with translations to English by Paddy Bushe, comprising a selection of poems drawn from Ní Bheildiúin's published works to date. *Translating Brandon Mountain / Agallamh leis an gCnoc* (Ponc Press, 2022) is a limited edition short selection with translations to English by David Knowles. Four volumes of Ní Bheildiúin's original Irish language poetry were published by Coiscéim.



*"In these exquisitely
tuned lyrics she
brings us to a place
that is both real
and imagined; a lost
domain, fabulous and
yet strangely familiar."*
— Cathal Ó Searcaigh

Reading & Discussion

Eva Bourke (Ireland) & Fran Lock (UK) Moderated by Paul Casey

Friday 19th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Eva Bourke is a poet and translator. She has published seven collections of poetry, most recently *Seeing Yellow* (Dedalus, 2018) and several anthologies and collections in translation. Together with Borbála Farragó she edited the anthology *Landing Places: Immigrant Poets in Ireland* (Dedalus, 2011) and with Vincent Woods *Fermata: Writings Inspired by Music* (Artisan House, 2017). In 2020 she was nominated for the Irish Times Poetry Now Prize and the same year was awarded the Michael Hartnett Prize for Poetry. She is a member of Aosdána.

“These poems suggest that the soul is an enduring gentleness in us, in others, in perhaps everything, and that it needs us to release it, to let it breathe, to nourish it with what we create rather than destroy.”
— Fred Marchant

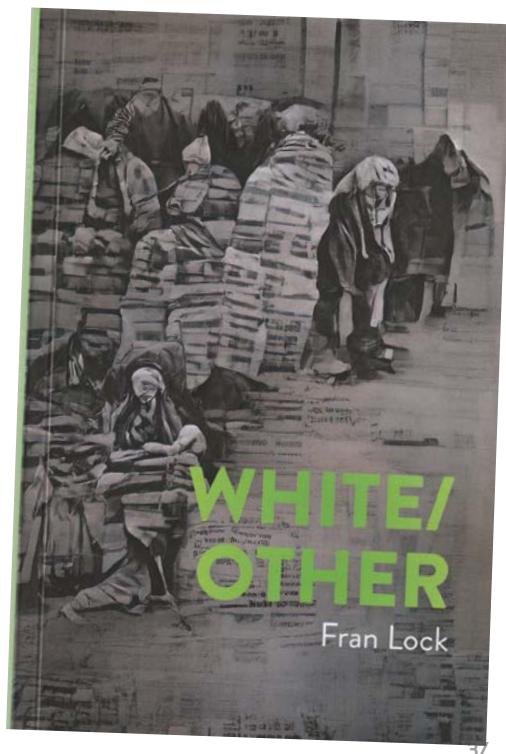




Fran Lock is a some-time itinerant dog whisperer, the author of numerous chapbooks and ten poetry collections. Her most recent chapbook is *Forever Alive* (Dare-Gale Press, 2022), and her most recent collections are *Hyena!* (Poetry Bus Press, 2022) and *White/ Other* (87 Press, 2022). A new collection of poems, *a disgusting lie* is due from Pamernar Press later this year, and a book of hybrid essays on feral subjectivity, inspired by her work with the Cambridge University Library bestiary, is forthcoming from Out-Spoken Press, also in 2023. She is a proud pit bull parent, and she edits the Soul Food column for *Communist Review*.

“Hers is a prismatic language of resistance — of rage, of what we keep, what consoles or taunts us in the dark hours. Her poems, carefully controlled visceral accumulations, inhabit the worlds of plants and animals, derelict high streets, love, and riot.”

— Katy Evans-Bush



Reading & Discussion

Toby Rivas de la Martinez (UK / Spain)

& A. E. Stallings (USA / Greece)

Moderated by Patrick Cotter

Friday 19th 10.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

PHOTOGRAPHER: SIMONA NOLI



"Sections of his verse read like a series of psalms, others as soaring meditations ... the book reverberates with menace and hope."

— Maria Crawford

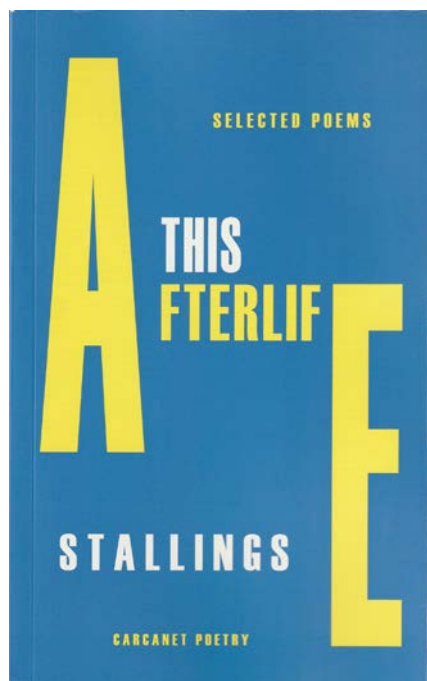
Toby Martinez de las Rivas was born in 1978. He grew up in Hampshire and Somerset, then moved to the north-east of England after studying history and archaeology at Durham where he began writing. He won an Eric Gregory award in 2005, the Andrew Waterhouse award from New Writing North in 2008 and the Newcastle Australia Residency Award in 2013. His debut collection, *Terror*, was published in 2014, followed by *Black Sun* in 2018, which was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection.

Toby
Martinez
de las Rivas
Black Sun



A. E. Stallings is a US-born poet, translator, and critic who lives in Athens. She has received a grant from the NEA, and fellowships from the Guggenheim, United States Artists, and the MacArthur foundations. Her most recent volume of translation is the illustrated *Battle Between the Frogs and the Mice* (Paul Dry Books), and she has a selected poems just out, *This Afterlife*, with Carcanet. Her poems, essays, and reviews appear widely.

She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



“...Stallings embraces the inevitable falling-away of things — of language, cities, people, civilizations — not as a way of reevaluating the past, but as a means of focusing on the fullness of life in the present tense, on the stuff that’s here now but might not be for long.”

— Los Angeles Review of Books

Chapbooks Launch & Award Presentations

Fool for Poetry & Gregory O' Donoghue Prize Readings Moderated by Patrick Cotter

Saturday 20th 3.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

At this event the winning chapbooks of the most recent Fool for Poetry Competition, *War Food* by Milica Mijatović and *What it Costs* by Tracy Gaughan, will be launched with readings by the poets. Both poets will receive a cash prize and 25 copies of their books.

Fool for Poetry 1st Prize Winner



Milica Mijatović is a Serb poet and translator. Born in Brčko, Bosnia and Hercegovina, she relocated to the United States where she earned a BA in Creative Writing and English Literature from Capital University. She received her MFA in Creative Writing from Boston University and is a recipient of a Robert Pinsky Global Fellowship in Poetry. Her poetry appears or is forthcoming in *Rattle*, *Plume*, *The Louisville Review*, *Poet Lore*, *Collateral*, *Santa Clara Review*, *Barely South*

Review, and elsewhere. Her poems have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize, and she serves as Assistant Poetry Editor for *Consequence*.

Fool for Poetry 2nd Prize Winner

Tracy Gaughan lives in Galway. Her poetry has appeared in *Southword*, *Crannóg* and *ROPES*. She was a finalist in the Eavan Boland Emerging Poet Award and was selected for the Irish Writer Centre's Mentorship Program in 2022. That same year, her poem *The Wild Purge* was nominated for a Forward Prize for Best Single Poem. A former poetry editor at *The Blue Nib Literary Magazine*, Tracy holds an MA in International Literatures from the University of Galway and is the recipient of two Arts Council Awards. Her collective anthology, *Pushed Toward the Blue Hour*, is published with Nine Pens Press.



The winner of the Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition will receive their €2,000 prize and have the opportunity to read from a selection of their poems. Their winning poem will be published in issue 44 of *Southword*. Details of the winner, not yet announced at the time of this publication, will be posted on corkpoetryfest.net

GREGORY O'DONOGHUE INTERNATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION



MUNSTER LITERATURE CENTRE
Ionad Litreachta an Deisceart



Open to original, unpublished poems in the English language of 40 lines or fewer; Any subject, any style, by a writer living anywhere in the world; Past winners include Suji Kwock Kim, Maya C. Popa, Leila Chatti & Mark Wagenaar.

JUDGE: SUJI KWOCK KIM

1ST PRIZE: €2,000
GUEST READING AT THE CORK
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2ND PRIZE: €500
PUBLISHED IN SOUTHWORD

3RD PRIZE: €250
PUBLISHED IN SOUTHWORD

TEN RUNNERS-UP: €50
PUBLISHED IN SOUTHWORD

Journal Showcase

Aneas Showcase

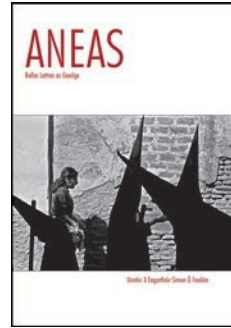
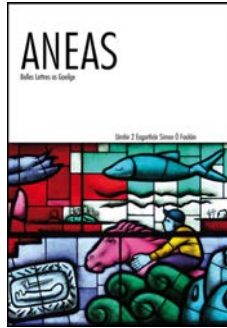
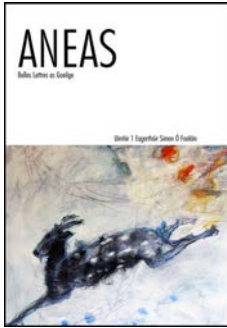
Moderated by Simon Ó Faoláin

Saturday 20th 4.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

Iris nua bhliantúil atá tiomnaithe go hiomlán don gcuid is fearr de litríocht chomhaimseartha na Gaeilge í *Aneas*, iris a léiríonn go bhfuil neart, ealaín, pléasúr agus tathag fós ag baint le litríocht na teanga sinseartha sa tír seo. Laistigh dá clúdach geobhair filíocht, gearrscéalta agus léirmheasanna doimhne ó na scríbhneoirí is fearr atá ag saothrú na Gaeilge inniu, idir óg is aosta. Is é an mana eagarthóireachta a leagadh amach don iris, thar aon rud eile, ná caighdeán ard scríbhneoireachta.



Tá ceithre chnuasach filíochta foilsithe go dtí seo ag **Simon Ó Faoláin**, an ceann is déanaí *Iasachtaigh* (Coiscéim, 2022), anuas ar dhá leabhar d'aistriúcháin liteartha. I measc na ngradam atá buaite ag a chuid scríbhneoireachta tá Duais Glen Dimplex, Duais Strong, Duais Bhaitéar Uí Mhaicín, Duais Cholmcille agus Duais Fhoras na Gaeilge. Tá sé ina stiúrthóir ar An Fhéile Bheag Filíochta, féile dhátheangach filíochta in Iarthar Duibhneach, agus ina eagarthóir ar an iris liteartha Gaeilge *Aneas*.



File agus aistritheoir é **Paddy Bushe** a bhíonn ag obair as Gaeilge agus as Béarla. Is ball de Aosdána é.

Is iad *Obair Bhaile* (2021) agus *Grá fiar/Crooked love* (2022) an dá chnuasach is déanaí atá foilsithe ag **Louis de Paor**.

Bhuaigh an cnuasach filíochta is déanaí ó **Ceaití Ní Bheildiúin**, *Agallamh sa Cheo – Cnoc Bhréanainn*, Gradam Mícheál Ó hAirtnéide 2021.

Tá dhá chnuasach gearrscéalta foilsithe ag **Colm Ó Ceallacháin**. Tá cónaí air i gCorcaigh.

Is file, scríbhneoir, agus teagascóir Gaeilge é an Conallach **Dubhán Ó Longáin**.

Is as Gaeltacht na Rinne i gContae Phort Láirge í **Áine Uí Fhoghlú** agus d'fhoilsigh sí a ceathrú cnuasach filíochta, *Mná dár Mhair* i 2022.

Is file agus údar do pháistí í **Eibhlís Carcione**. Tá trí chnuasach filíochta foilsithe aici *Tonn Chlíodbna* (2015) *Eala Oíche* (2019) agus *Bean Róin* (2023).

File í **Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh** as Trá Lí i gCo. Chiarraí. Tá trí bhunchnuasaigh foilsithe aici i nGaeilge ó 2008.

Reading & Discussion

Polina Barskova (Russia / USA) & Valzhyna Mort (Belarus / USA) Moderated by Patrick Cotter

Saturday 20th 7.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Polina Barskova is a scholar and a poet born in Petersburg (Russia), author of thirteen collections of poems and three books of prose in Russian. Her collection of creative nonfiction, *Living Pictures*, received the Andrey Bely Prize in 2015 and is now available in German with Suhrkamp Verlag and in English with NYRB. She edited the Leningrad Siege poetry anthology *Written in the Dark* (UDP) and has four collections of poetry published in English translation: *This Lamentable City* (Tupelo Press), *The Zoo in Winter* (Melville House), *Relocations* (Zephyr Press) and *Air Raid* (Ugly Duckling Presse, 2021). She lives and teaches in Berkeley, CA.



“Air Raid is a study of human response to history; a light-catching collection that casts the minute and individual alongside the collective experience of survival and loss.”

— Marina Brown

PHOTOGRAPHER: TANYA KAPITONOVA



Valzhyna Mort is the author of three poetry collections, most recently: *Music for the Dead and Resurrected* (FSG 2020), named one of the best poetry books of 2020 by *The New York Times*, and the winner of the International Griffin Poetry Prize and the UNT Rilke Prize. Mort is a recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Academy

in Rome, the Lannan Foundation, and the Amy Clampitt Foundation. She has received a National Endowment for the Arts grant for her translation work. Born in Minsk, Belarus, Mort writes in English and Belarusian.



“The voice of Valzhyna Mort is a miraculous reminder that words can do many things—they can dance, can bask in irony, can praise love but they can also tell the truth ... They elevate the miserable, the barbarian, the numb to the level of universal idiom of wisdom and grace.”

— Adam Zagajewski

Reading & Discussion

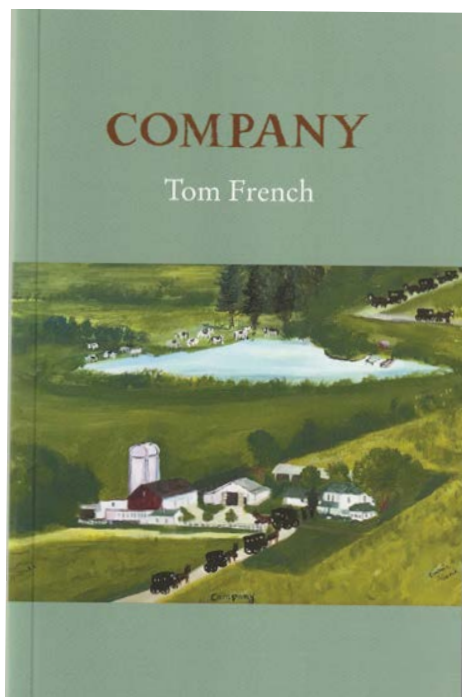
Tom French (Ireland) & Suji Kwock Kim (USA / UK) Moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin

Saturday 20th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



“The poems in Tom French’s Company, while wide-ranging in subject and mood, are drawn together in their common theme of human connection.”
— Irish Times

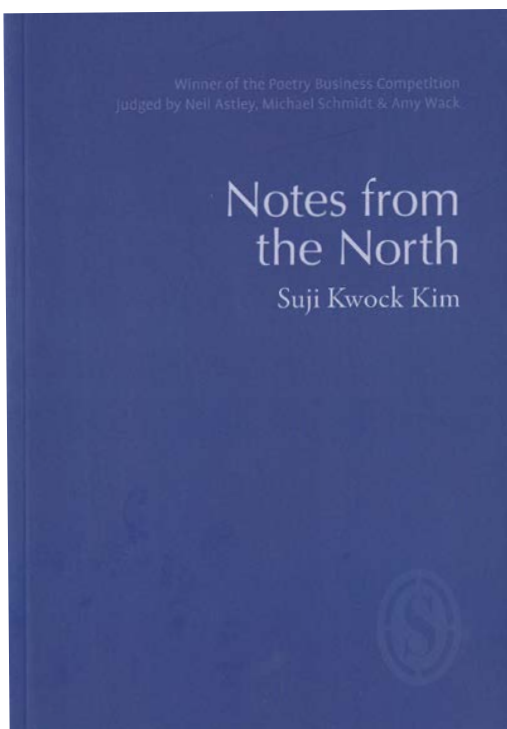
Tom French’s collections are published by The Gallery Press and have received the Forward Prize for Best Collection (2002), the Dermot Healy Award (2015) and the O’Shaughnessy Award for Irish Poetry (2016). His most recent book *Company* (Gallery Press, 2022) was an Irish Times Book of the Year in 2022. He lives in coastal County Meath and earns his living in the County Library Service.



Suji Kwock Kim is author of *Notes from the Divided Country*, which received the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets, Addison Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Whiting Writers' Award, Bay Area Book Reviewers Award, and was shortlisted for the Griffin Prize; *Private Property*, a multimedia play performed at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival; and *Notes from the North*, which received the International Book & Pamphlet Award (UK). Selections from *Disorient*, her forthcoming collection, have received the O'Donoghue Prize, as well as awards from *Poetry London*, *the Well Review*, and Poetry Society of America. She is 2023 Writer-in-Residence at the Wordsworth Trust.



"These poems are part-nightmare, part-history book written in ammonia and blood. I couldn't forget these lyrics of murder and escape, brutal musicality and prophecy."
— Aimee Nezhukumatathil





Roundtable Discussion

Poetry in a Time of War – What Use Is Poetry?

Carolyn Forché, Suji Kwock Kim & Milica Mijatović
Moderated by Patrick Cotter

Saturday 20th 10.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

What is war poetry and who has a right to write it? Can non-combatants and those not directly witnessing write poetry about war? Is poetry essential or a frippery in time of war? Join a roundtable discussion chaired by poet and festival director Patrick Cotter with poets Carolyn Forché, Suji Kwock Kim and Milica Mijatović.

Carolyn Forché's most recent collection, *In the Lateness of the World* (Penguin Press, 2020) was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. Her famed international anthology, *Against Forgetting*, has been praised by Nelson Mandela as “itself a blow against tyranny, against prejudice, against injustice.”

Suji Kwock Kim is author of *Notes from the Divided Country*, which received the Walt Whitman Award from the Academy of American Poets. Selections from *Disorient* received the O'Donoghue Prize, as well as awards from *Poetry London*, *the Well Review*, and Poetry Society of America.

Milica Mijatović is a Serb poet and translator. Born in Brčko, Bosnia and Hercegovina, she relocated to the United States where she earned a BA in Creative Writing and English Literature from Capital University. She is the winner of this year's Fool for Poetry International Chapbook Competition.

Coming May 1st, 2023

IN THE HOUR OF WAR:

POETRY FROM UKRAINE

Edited by Carolyn Forché & Ilya Kaminsky



"In Hour of War: Poetry from Ukraine, edited by Carolyn Forché and Ilya Kaminsky, is more than timely. These poems refuse to glorify war, but instead render reflection. The poets of Ukraine deliver a ruckering, and the souls of a people are laid bare — some fight even with their hands tied behind their backs. In The Hour of War speaks between the people of Ukraine and the world."

*Yusef Komunyakaa,
Pulitzer Prize winning poet*

Anastasiya Anisimova • Yana Anisimova • Alex Avakian
Natalia Babinchuk • Hanna Borshch • Anna Brakke • Danylo Hordienko
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Makarska-Krasovska • Zoriana Melnykova • Boris Kozlovsky • Ildar Dima
Oksana Zorochyna • Oleh Kostin • Volodya Marushko • Tikhon Nalich
Iryna Pavlenko • Mykola Polak • Iryna Savchenko • Oleg Shymko
Lyuba Vukobratovic • Oksana Zharbko • Emily Zharov

Edited by
Carolyn Forché & Ilya Kaminsky



Moderators

Paul Casey's poems have most recently appeared in *Days of Clear Light* (Salmon Poetry) and *Local Wonders* (Dedalus). His second collection *Virtual Tides* was published by Salmon in 2016. It followed *home more or less* (Salmon, 2012) and *It's Not All Bad* (Heaventree, 2009). He teaches creative writing, edits the *Unfinished Book of Poetry* and promotes poetry in his role as director of Ó Bhéal.

Patrick Cotter is an Irish poet, born in Cork City where he still lives. His poems have been published in journals such as the *Financial Times*, *The London Review of Books*, *Poetry* and *Poetry Review*. He is a recipient of the Keats-Shelley Prize for Poetry. His poems have been translated into over a dozen languages and he has given readings of his work across the Northern Hemisphere. *Sonic White Poise*, his third full-length collection, was published by Dedalus in 2021.

Matthew Geden was born and brought up in the English Midlands, moving to Kinsale in 1990. His publications include *Fruit* (SurVision Books, 2020) and *The Cloud Architect* (Doire Press, 2022). In 2019 he was Writer in Residence at Nanjing Literature Centre in China and since 2020 he has been Writer in Residence for Cork County Library and Arts Office. He was awarded an Arts Council Literature Bursary in 2022.

Thomas McCarthy was born in Cappoquin, County Waterford, in 1954. He worked at Cork City Libraries until 2014 when he withdrew to write full-time. He has published ten collections of poetry including *The Sorrow Garden* (1981), *The Last Geraldine Officer* (2009), *Pandemonium* (2016) and *Prophecy* (2019) as well as two novels and two books of non-fiction. His prose-book, *Poetry, Memory and the Party*, was published by Gallery Press in 2021.

Afric McGlinchey is a multi-award-winning poet from West Cork, Ireland. Her collections are *The lucky star of hidden things* and *Ghost of the Fisher Cat* (Salmon Poetry), both with Italian translations published by L'Arcolaio. A surrealist pamphlet, *Invisible Insane* (SurVision) appeared in 2019. Her most recent publication is *Tied to the Wind*, a hybrid childhood memoir, published by Broken Sleep Books.

Kate Moore is a writer and playwright from Kerry now based in Cork City. She has previously had work produced in the Everyman, Cork Arts Theatre, Siamsa Tire Theatre and by UCC Dramat. She has been published by the *Irish Times* and Wild Words Book Festival, and is currently under mentorship from Children's Books Ireland.

Cliona Ní Riordáin is a critic, translator and Professor of English at the Sorbonne Nouvelle. Her monograph, *English Language Poets in University College Cork 1970–1980* (Palgrave Macmillan) was published in 2020. Her translation of Maylis Besserie's novel, *Yell, Sam, If You Still Can* appeared from Lilliput Press in 2022. *Plus loin encore*, translations of Gerry Murphy's poems co-edited and co-translated with Paul Bensimon came out in 2022.

Tá ceithre chnuasach filíochta foilsithe go dtí seo ag **Simon Ó Faoláin**, an ceann is déanaí *Iasachtaigh* (Coiscéim 2022), anuas ar dhá leabhar d'aistriúcháin liteartha. Tá sé ina stiúrthóir ar An Fhéile Bheag Filíochta, féile dhátheangach filíochta in Iarthar Duibhneach, agus ina eagarthóir ar an iris liteartha Gaeilge *Aneas*.

James O'Leary is a poet from Cork. His latest chapbook is *Sacrament of the Sick* (Well Review Editions, 2023), following his first chapbook *There are Monsters in this House* (Southword Editions, 2018). His poetry-films have screened at festivals in Ireland, Scotland and Canada.

Keith Payne is an award-winning poet, translator and editor, recently co-editing *A Different Eden: Ecopoetry from Ireland and Galicia* (Dedalus, 2021). He is curator of the Aodh Ruadh Ó Domhnaill Poetry Bursary and is Cork City Library Eco Poet in Residence 2022-23.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to express our gratitude to Sarah Bannan, Head of Literature in the Arts Council, and to Michelle Carew, Cork City Arts Officer, for their ongoing support.

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