

Welcome

Once again we find ourselves in the midst 'of a low, dishonest decade' (Auden) where strongmen and women of messianic zeal are pushing language to a service beyond the boundaries of truth and decency. Poetry is the one art form which fights back against this brutal assault on language, which defends the capacity of language to retain truth and the authenticity of personal experience, which allows an individual to speak of their life in language devoid of the corruptions of politics and commerce. Poets constantly remould language to evade these corruptions, evade these efforts at preventing language from being flexible enough to respond to lies and oppression. As a potential audience member we invite you to join us in this struggle, in this project of resisting oppression through language.

This year, we again present to a local audience, which from year to year grows increasingly diverse amidst its solid Irish base, dozens of the world's vital, essential poets who write not only in English but in Andalucian, Brazilian Portuguese, Czech, Irish, Spanish, Ukrainian & Welsh. The poets here who write in English write from backgrounds as various as American, Argentinian, Australian, British, Chinese, German, Hungarian, Indian, Trinidadian, Scottish, as well as Irish.

We have poets of the Irish emigrant experience as well as the Irish immigrant experience. We present a selection of Irish poets whose accomplishments easily match that of poets with the best international reputations. And we celebrate those achievements not only by presenting opportunities to audiences to listen to the poets declaim their own poetry, but to witness them speaking in plain language on the concerns closest to their hearts: spirituality, love, grief, struggles of class, colour and sexual identity, the horrors of war and environmental degradation. Because poetry must work hard to evade the corrupting of language, sometimes it is not always immediately accessible. The best of things don't always come easily. Still we assure you that we are an open and welcoming community and we ask you to trust us with your time and attention.

Patrick Cotter

Festival director and author of *Quality Control at the Miracle Factory*

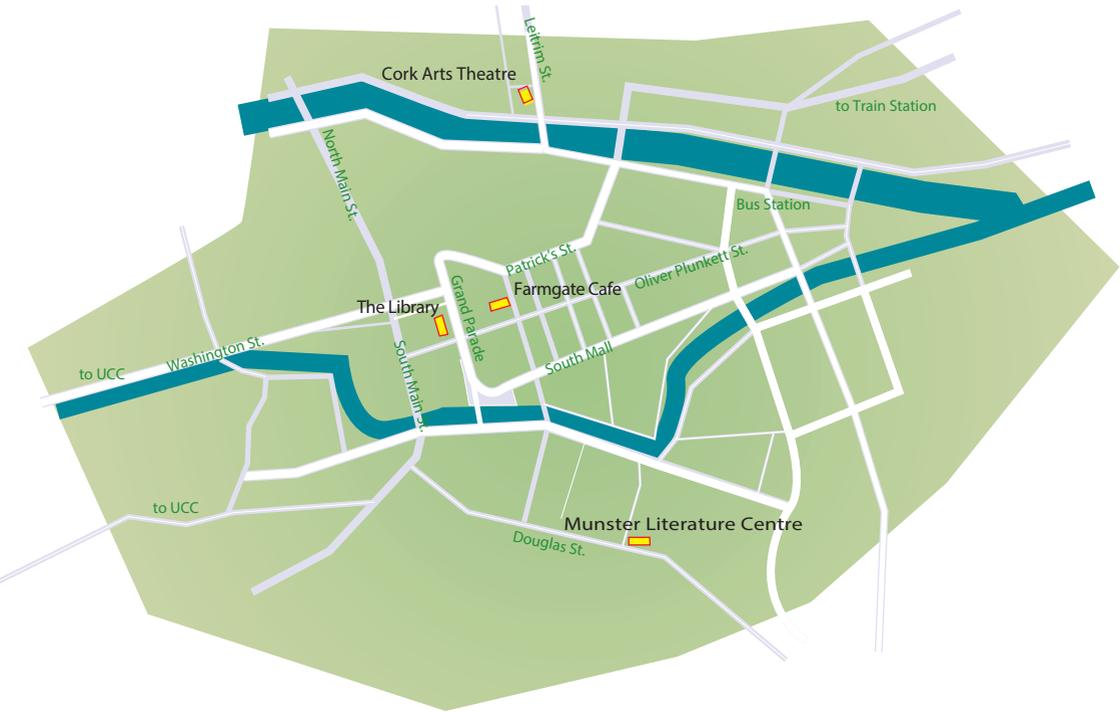


Cover image:

A Hereford nods in awe at the 5th Battalion North Irish Horse who perished of pestilence and malaric fever on the 4th day of the 2nd Battle of Ombdurman (1988) by Dermot Seymour, oil on canvas, 143 x 200cm



Those with symptoms of a respiratory illness are required to wear a mask. If you are displaying respiratory symptoms and don't have a mask, for the protection of the vulnerable we may ask you to leave the venue.



Bookings

Bookings can be made by credit card through the website www.corkpoetryfest.net until Thursday 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). The Cork Arts Theatre no longer issues physical tickets, so we advise arriving early to events to have your name checked off a list. 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

Manuscript Feedback

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

A Fresh Pair of Eyes!

One-to-one manuscript feedback with David McLoughlin

Half-hour appointments available:

11.00am / 11.30am / 12.00pm Thursday 14th

11.00am / 11.30am / 12.00pm Friday 15th

11.00am / 11.30am Saturday 16th

Munster Literature Centre, 84 Douglas Street | Cost €60 | Limited to 8 individual appointments

The cost per session is €60 for a maximum of 10 poems on a maximum of 10 pages (double-spaced 11pt) which includes time spent on them beforehand. Manuscripts must be sent at least two weeks in advance of the festival.

Are there poems in your latest manuscript that are proving bothersome? Perhaps you feel an ending isn't quite working? Or the beginning isn't leading the reader in? Does the title add or subtract? Could the rhythm be a bit clunky? Is the theme being diminished by clichés or too much imagery or mixed metaphors? If you feel a fresh pair of eyes might help you untangle the knots of a poem and bring clarity to your thinking, then this workshop might be for you. David will scrutinise your work and present his findings to you face to face in a highly focused half-hour session. Rhythm and meter, line endings, how to start or finish a poem, whether to add a killer adjective or subtract a lame one – David will give you sympathetic, insightful and honest feedback. Whether you're a veteran of the verse world or just setting out on your poetic journey, this is a chance to discuss your poems with an experienced practitioner of the poetic craft.

David McLoughlin has sequenced and edited poems and collections for many poets, including a National Poetry Series winner. He excels at developmental editing and teaches poetry and memoir workshops with The Irish Writers Centre, The National Mentoring Programme, Cork Libraries, Poets House, and Poetry Ireland's Writers in Schools programme. A recent winner of the Waterford Poetry Prize and a recipient of a 2025 Arts Council Literature Bursary, David is the author of three collections with Salmon Poetry, most recently *Crash Centre* (2024), shortlisted for the 2025 Pigott Poetry Prize, a book of the year on the Books for Breakfast podcast ("Each poem feels like a shard of broken glass, sharp, reflective, impossible to ignore...") and described as "a work unquestionably triumphant with poetic victories" by Thomas McCarthy.

Workshops

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



The cost is €250 for all four masterclasses or €75 individually. Priority will be given to those who book all four and have at least two poem publication credits. Each participant will have the opportunity to have one of their poems for each masterclass (of up to thirty lines) discussed in a small group where each person's work will receive much individual attention. Poems must be sent at least two weeks in advance of the festival.

Gerard Smyth Masterclass (bio note page 19)

9.30am to 12.30pm Wednesday 13th May

Audrey Molloy Masterclass (bio note page 33)

9.30am to 12.30pm Thursday 14th May

Dean Browne Masterclass (bio note page 47)

9.30am to 12.30pm Friday 15th May

Annemarie Ní Churreáin Masterclass (bio note page 53)

9.30am to 12.30pm Saturday 16th May

Programme Outline

Tuesday 12th - Saturday 16th May

  /munsterliteraturecentre
 /munsterlitcentre.bsky.social
#CorkPoetryFest

Monday 11th

This Monday Fringe Event (not managed or produced by the Munster Literature Centre) is an event that we are delighted to draw attention to.

7.30pm, Hayloft Bar | Fringe Event

page 12

Ó Bhéal go Béal

(Poetry Films, Five Word Challenge, Guest Poet & Open-Mic)

Tuesday 12th

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

page 13

The Farmgate Café National Poetry Award

Bookstall sales will be by card only (we cannot accept cash)

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

Wednesday 13th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 14

Colm Scully & Csilla Toldy

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 16

Tim MacGabhann & Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan

(moderated by Afric McGlinchey)

7.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 18

Stephen de Búrca & Gerard Smyth

(moderated by Thomas McCarthy)

8.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 20

Cian Ferriter & Enda Wyley

(moderated by Patrick Holloway)

10.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 22

Shangyang Fang & Jennifer Lee Tsai

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

Programme Outline

Tuesday 12th - Saturday 16th May

  /munsterliteraturecentre
 /munsterlitcentre.bsky.social
#CorkPoetryFest

Thursday 14th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 24

Sylva Fischerová & Adelaide Ivánova

(moderated by Afric McGlinchey)

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 26

Celia de Fréine & Menna Elfyn

(moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin)

7.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 28

Cathy Galvin & Greg Rappleye

(moderated by David McLoughlin)

8.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 30

John F. Deane & Martha Sprackland

(moderated by Patrick Holloway)

10.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 32

Christina Hennemann & Audrey Molloy

(moderated by Róisín Leggett Bohan)

Bookstall sales will be by card only (we cannot accept cash)

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

Friday 15th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 34

Prebooked Poetry Introductions

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 36

Anna Gruver & Xaime Martínez

(moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin)

7.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 38

Simon Maddrell & Máighréd Medbh

(moderated by Paul Casey)

8.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 40

Niall Campbell & Polly Clark

(moderated by Lucy Holme)

10.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 42

Anthony Joseph & Patricia Smith

(moderated by Isabelle Baafi)

Programme Outline

Tuesday 12th - Saturday 16th May

  /munsterliteraturecentre
 /munsterlitcentre.bsky.social
#CorkPoetryFest

Saturday 16th

3.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 44

Fool for Poetry & Gregory O' Donoghue Prize Readings

4.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 46

Isabelle Baafi & Dean Browne

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

7.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 48

Kevin Graham & Bruce Snider

(moderated by David McLoughlin)

8.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 50

Leo Boix & Henri Cole

(moderated by Billy Ramsell)

10.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 52

Kim Moore & Annemarie Ní Churreáin

(moderated by Thomas McCarthy)

Bookstall sales will be by card only (we cannot accept cash)

Fool for Poetry International Chapbook Competition



Fringe Event

Ó Bhéal go Béal Poetry Films, Five Word Challenge, Guest Poet & Open-Mic

Monday 11th 7.30pm **The Hayloft Bar** | Admission free

This Monday Fringe Event (not managed or produced by the Munster Literature Centre) is an event that we are delighted to draw attention to.



Ó Bhéal go Béal is a poetry event held on the 2nd Monday of each month in The Hayloft Bar (upstairs at The Long Valley, Winthrop St). It continues in the footsteps of Ó Bhéal and this edition of Ó Bhéal go Béal will mark the first anniversary of the event in its new form.

7.30 p.m. Selection of Cork and Irish Poetry Films

8.30 p.m. Five Word Challenge

9.20 p.m. Guest poet & later Open-Mic

Award Presentation

The Farmgate Café National Poetry Award

Tuesday 12th 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. 55 valid entries have been received for the Farmgate National Poetry Award for the best original collection in English (or translated into English

for the first time) published by a poet living on the island of Ireland in the calendar year of 2025. These are listed at munsterlit.ie/farmgate and the award is worth €2000. This year's judges are the poets Ailbhe Darcy, Maya C. Popa and Thomas Dillon Redshaw. Limited places are available for a cosy reception at the Farmgate where the winning poet will receive their prize and present a short reading. A shortlist will be announced in April. In a year where a debut collection does not win the overall Farmgate Café National Poetry Award, the highest scoring debut collection in the competition will be awarded the separate Southword Debut Poetry Collection Award (this award is for €1000).

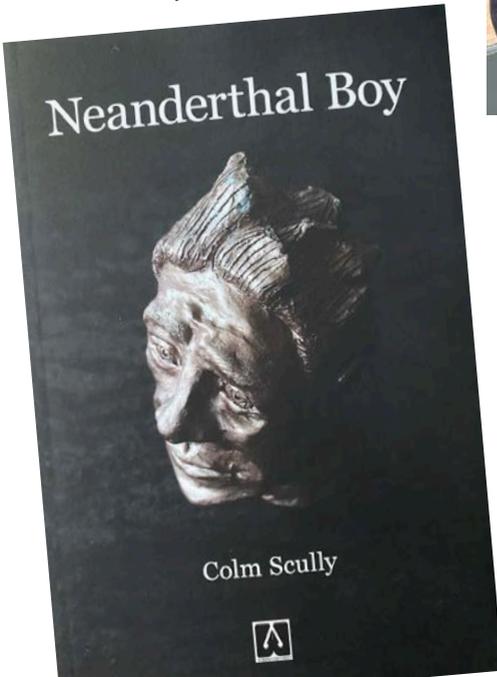


Reading & Poetry Films

Colm Scully (Ireland) & Csilla Toldy (Hungary/Northern Ireland)

Wednesday 13th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free

Colm Scully is a poet and poetry film maker from Cork. His second collection, *Neanderthal Boy*, was published by Wordsonthestreet Press in 2025. He has previously won the Cúirt New Writing Prize, and his poems have recently appeared in *Southword*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Cyphers*, *Orbis* and *The Friday Poem*. His award-winning poetry films have been screened internationally, including at Cork International Film Festival, Fastnet Film Festival and Bloomsday Film Festival. He teaches poetry film in the community and is a curator at Drumshanbo Written Word Festival and Ó Bhéal Poetry Film Festival.



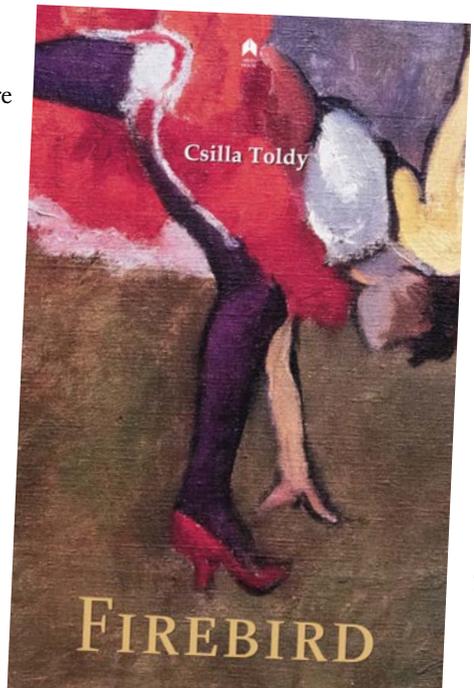
“Neanderthal Boy offers a space for voices to rise and find soft footfall at last’. Rich in imagery and insight, this collection invites readers to explore the margins of history and the simple beauty in fleeting, everyday moments.”

— Matthew Geden

Csilla Toldy published three volumes of poetry with Lapwing Belfast (2013, 2015, 2018), a first full collection, *Firebird*, with Arlen House (2025); *Angel Fur and other stories* with Stupor Mundi (2019), and the novel *Bed Table Door* (Wrecking Ball, 2023) which won the Desmond Elliott. Recent poetry appeared in *Southword*, *Cyphers*, *PN Review* and *Abridged*. Her poems were shortlisted for the Bridport Prize and nominated for the Forward Prize. Csilla creates poetry films. Some were commissioned as public artworks, the latest, *Imbolc*, by Down Arts Centre, where she was artist in residence until April 2026.



“The poems move easily from real to surreal and from voice to voice, exhibiting mastery of craft and respect for both form and experiment. A vivid, engaging reflection of life.”
— Moyra Donaldson



Reading & Discussion

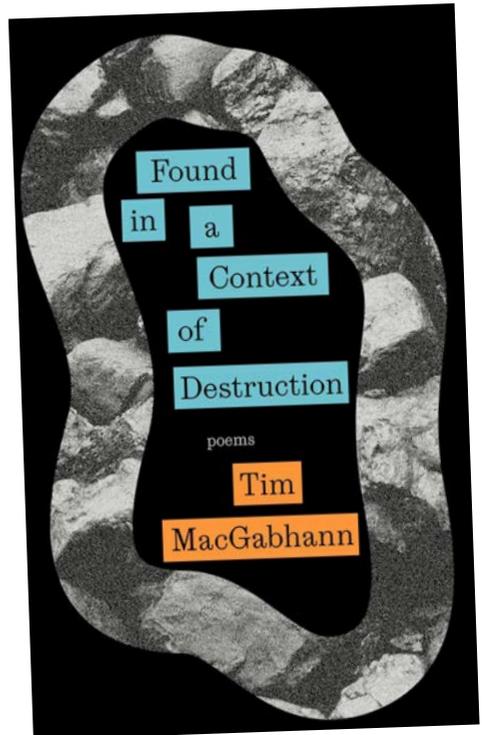
Tim MacGabhann (Ireland) & Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan (India/Ireland) Moderated by Afric McGlinchey

Wednesday 13th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



Tim MacGabhann is the author of the novels *Call Him Mine* (2019) and *How to Be Nowhere* (2020), published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. His chapbook *Rory Gallagher—Live!—from the Hotel of the Dead* (2023) was published by Rough Trade Books. 2025 saw the publication of a memoir of addiction and recovery, *The Black Pool* (Sceptre), a collection of short stories, *Saints* (Scratch Books), and the poetry collection *Found in a Context of Destruction* (Banshee Press). He lives in Paris.

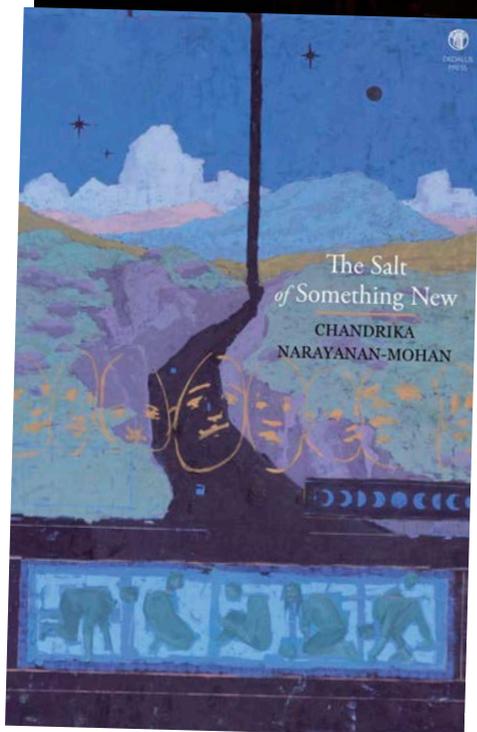
“Tim MacGabhann’s poems feel both brittle and lush, mournful and life-lurching. Found in a Context of Destruction is an intimate exploration of place, migration, addiction, and the dented, red-hot forging of a self.”
— Robin Myers



PHOTOGRAPHER: BARRY McCALL



Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan is Indian-Irish writer, performer, and cultural consultant. Her work has been published by Dedalus Press, New Island, Banshee, The Stinging Fly, Poetry Ireland, and others. She often works with poetry as a method of science communication, and was the 2023 Writer in Residence for the Institute of Physics and a 2024 Goethe-Institut Studio Quantum Artist in Residence. She is a Skein Press Play it Forward Fellow, and her debut poetry collection will be published with Dedalus Press in 2026.



Throughout there is a remarkable lightness of touch, a precision that reminds us of the poet's abiding interest in science and ecology, the fruits of which further extend the range of this confident and memorable debut.

Reading & Discussion

Stephen de Búrca (Ireland)

& Gerard Smyth (Ireland)

Moderated by Thomas McCarthy

Wednesday 13th 7.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

PHOTOGRAPHER: NEIL HAINSWORTH



ATLANTIC FRET

Stephen de Búrca

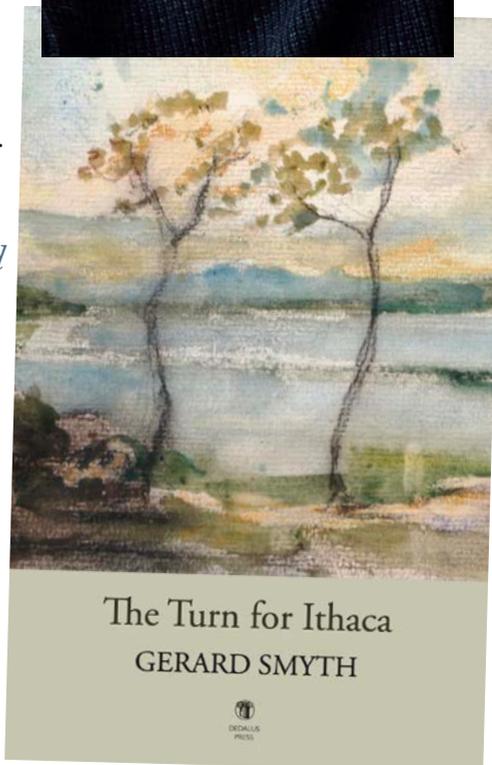
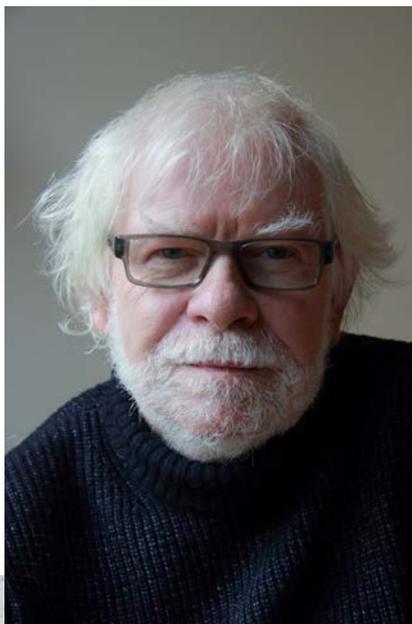


Stephen de Búrca is a writer from Galway. He completed a doctorate, funded by the UK Arts & Humanities Research Council, at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen's University Belfast (2025) and an MFA at the University of Florida (2020). He was selected for the inaugural Poetry Ireland Gerald Dawe Poetry Bursary (2026), for Poetry Ireland Introductions (2023), and received an Arts Council Agility Award (2023 and 2022). Stephen's work has featured in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *PN Review*, *Banshee*, *Propel Magazine*, *Skylight 47*, *Abridged*, and elsewhere. His debut poetry collection, *Atlantic Fret*, is forthcoming with The Gallery Press in 2026.

...Stephen de Búrca embraces the idea of the Atlantic Ocean as the source of chaos from which the Cosmos grew. Against the backdrop of climate change the ocean shares the burden of grief while offering a space for sexual freedom and self-expression.

Gerard Smyth is a poet and journalist. *The Turn for Ithaca* (Dedalus Press) is his eleventh collection. His poetry has been published widely since the late 1960s. Other books from Dedalus include *The Sundays of Eternity* (2020) and *The Fullness of Time: New and Selected Poems* (2010). He was the 2012 recipient of the O'Shaughnessy Poetry Award from the University of St Thomas in Minnesota and is co-editor, with Pat Boran, of *If Ever You Go: A Map of Dublin in Poetry and Song* (Dedalus Press) which was Dublin's One City One Book in 2014. He is a member of Aosdána.

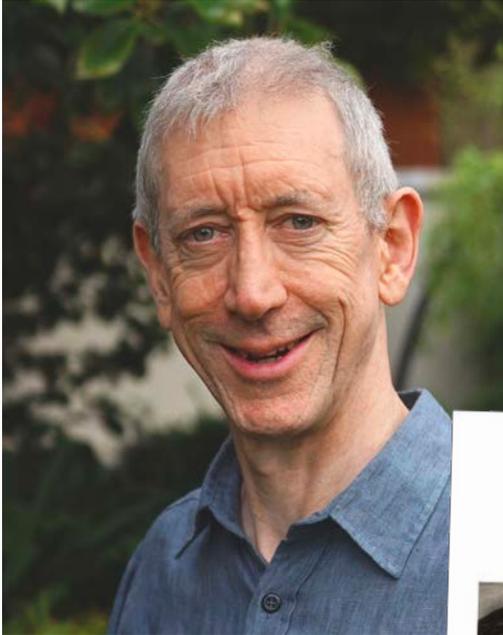
“Gerard Smyth has achieved a hard-won grace and fluency over many years and now writes with controlled passion and lyrical intensity, the result of a dedication to the truth of poetry that has involved a steady pilgrimage.”
— John F. Deane



Reading & Discussion

Cian Ferriter (Ireland) & Enda Wyley (Ireland) Moderated by Patrick Holloway

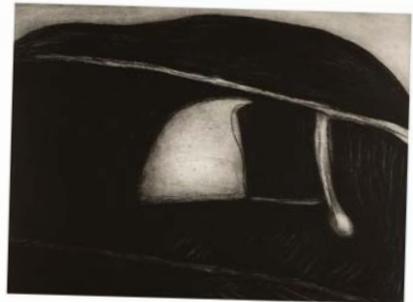
Wednesday 13th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Cian Ferriter's debut chapbook, *Earth's Black Chute*, won the 2021 Fool for Poetry International Chapbook Competition and was published by Southword Editions in 2022. His first full collection, *Brink*, was published by Dedalus in November 2025. He is a High Court Judge.

"...precarious as the brink is, the unyieldingly sympathetic foundation of these poems in the reality of family and immediate perception is wholly redemptive."

— Bernard O'Donoghue



Brink
CIAN FERRITER



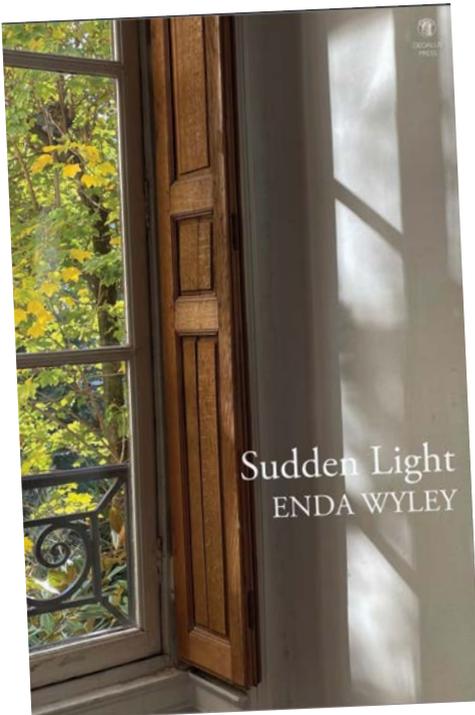
PHOTOGRAPHER: MATT KAVANAGH

Enda Wyley

has published six collections of poetry, most recently *Sudden Light* (Dedalus Press, 2025). She has also published *Borrowed Space: New and Selected Poems* (Dedalus



Press, 2024). She is the 2026 recipient of the Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Prize in Poetry, St Thomas University Minnesota, U.S.A, now in its 30th year. Other awards include the Vincent Buckley Prize in Poetry, Melbourne University and a Reading Association of Ireland Award. Enda lives in Dublin, teaches poetry and co-hosts the popular podcast Books for Breakfast. She is a member of Aosdána.



“Wyley’s poems are perpetually fresh, utterly scrutinized, marked by vigor and virtuosity, arriving on the page as accomplished things, like settled law, fit for the long-haul language calls us to.”
— Thomas Lynch

Reading & Discussion

Shangyang Fang (China/USA) & Jennifer Lee Tsai (UK) Moderated by Patrick Cotter

Wednesday 13th 10.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Shangyang Fang grew up in Chengdu, China. His works appears in *The Nation*, *Ploughshares*, *The Yale Review*, *The Best American Poetry*, *The Best of Net*, *The Pushcart Prize Anthology*, and *The Forward Book of Poetry Anthology* (UK), etc. He is the author of the two poetry collections, *Burying the Mountain* (Copper Canyon Press, 2021) and *Bastard of Elsewhere* (Copper Canyon Press, 2027) and a translation book, *Study of Sorrow* (Copper Canyon Press, 2025). He is an Assistant Professor of English & Creative Writing at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

“We owe Fang a debt for bringing the delicacy, obliqueness, and sheer tremulous beauty of these Chinese poems to English-speaking readers ... an important talent whose searching “study” enriches our sense of Chinese poetry immeasurably.”
— Laura Sheahen



Shangyang Fang

STUDY OF SORROW:
TRANSLATIONS

PHOTOGRAPHER: CALEB FEMI



Jennifer Lee Tsai is an award-winning poet, writer and artist. She was born in Bebington and grew up in Liverpool. She is a fellow of The Complete Works, a Ledbury Poetry Critic and a former Contributing Editor to *Ambit*. Her poetry and literary criticism are widely featured in publications including *The Guardian*, *The Poetry Review*, *Poetry London*, *The Telegraph*, *The TLS* & *The White Review* as well as on BBC Radio 4. She is the author of two poetry pamphlets, *Kismet* (ignition press, 2019) and *La Mystérique* (Guillemot Press, 2022). Her first full-length poetry collection, *Melete*, is forthcoming with Bloodaxe in May 2026.

“Every poem is part doorway, part mirror. In Melete, we are led into a world of prejudice and determination, hardship and resilience, but this is also a world of beginnings, becomings and the search for belonging and in it we can't help but discover ourselves.”
— John Glenday



Reading & Discussion

Sylva Fischerová (Czech Republic) & Adelaide Ivánova (Brazil/Germany) Moderated by Afric McGlinchey

Thursday 14th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free

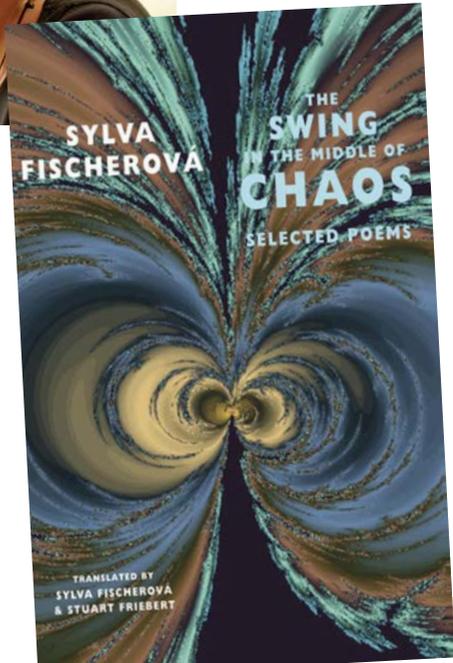
Born in 1963 as a daughter of a non-Marxist philosopher whose works were banished under the communist régime, **Sylva Fischerová** is the author of twelve collections of poems, five volumes of short stories, four novels and three children's books. She is a classicist who teaches at Charles University in Prague. In 2018, she was named the first City Poet of Prague. In 2024, Sylva Fischerová was the first Czech woman writer

to be awarded the prestigious Karel Čapek Prize by the Czech PEN Club for her contribution to Czech letters and for promoting democratic and humanistic values in society in her work.



“Driven by a restless moral intelligence which never loses urgency, Fischerová’s poems mix hope with irony, showing why the world makes us ache.”

— Dennis Schmitz



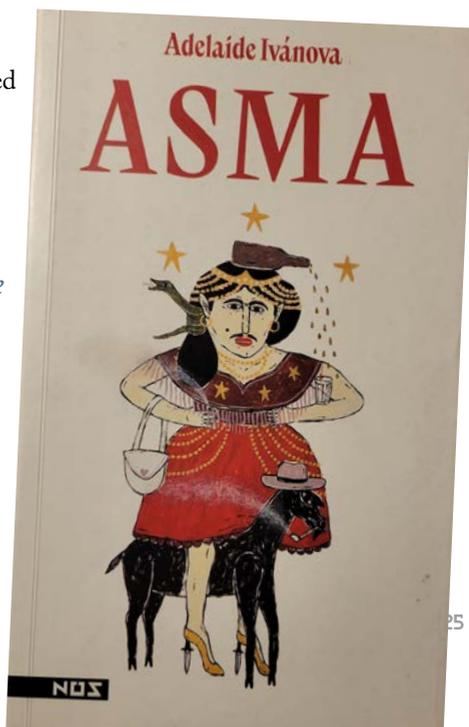
PHOTOGRAPHER: LUCAS SOARES

Adelaide Ivánova (1982, Recife) is a journalist and housing justice activist, working in poetry, photography, performance, translation, political education, and publishing. In 2018, she won the Rio de Janeiro Literature Award for her second book of poetry,

o martelo, a documentary poetry book based on research on sexualized violence in Brazil. Her most recent book, *ASMA*, was chosen as the best poetry book of 2024 by *451 magazine* and was listed as one of the 20 best books of the year by *Folha de São Paulo*. In 2025, it won the APCA award for best book of poetry, and it was longlisted for both Oceanos and Jabuti Awards.

“Ivánova’s poems give us not just a new vocabulary, but a new rhythm, to discuss the places where everyday life can yield to our desires for radical rupture from the structures that bow us.”

— Laura Jaramillo



Reading & Discussion

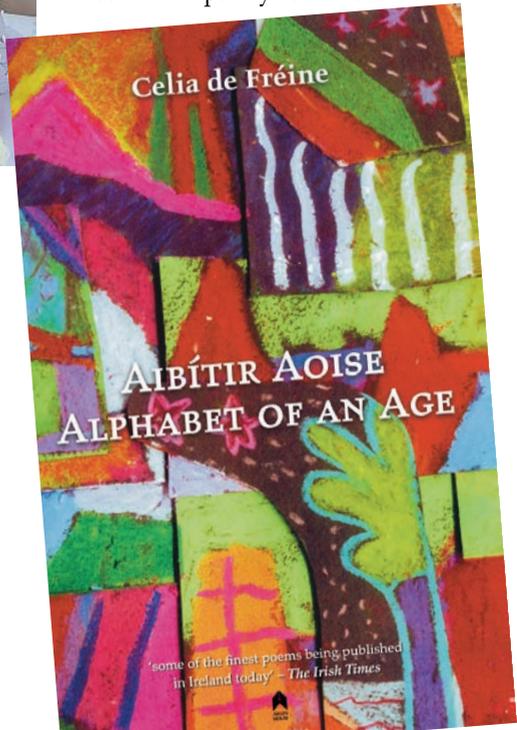
Celia de Fréine (Ireland) & Menna Elfyn (Wales) Moderated by Cliona Ní Ríordáin

Thursday 14th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free



Celia de Fréine writes in many genres in both Irish and English. Awards for her poetry include the Patrick Kavanagh Award, Gradam Litríochta Chló Iar-Chonnacht and the British Comparative Literature Association Translation Award. Her plays have won numerous Oireachtas awards and her film and television scripts have won awards in Ireland and America. She has been shortlisted four times in different categories for An Post Irish Book Awards. *Aibítir Aoise: Alphabet of an Age* (Arlen House, 2025) is her most recent poetry collection.

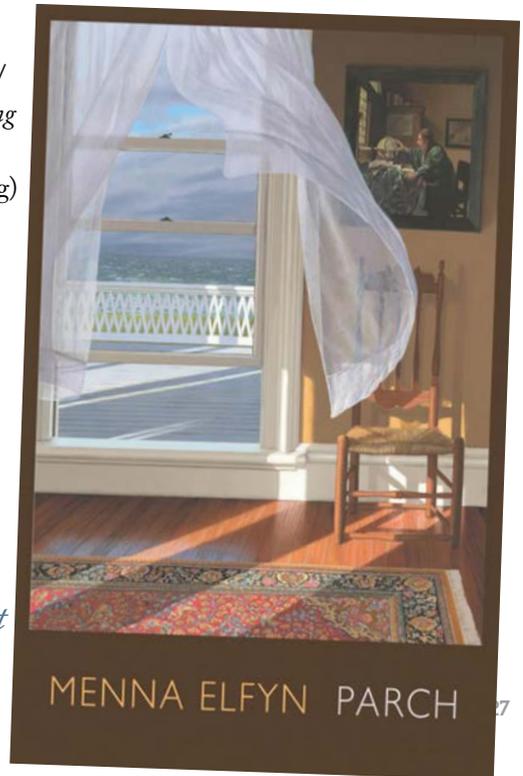
“Tá ábhar machnaimh sa chnuasach seo. Briseann sé múnlaí. Osclaíonn sé fuinneoga na samhlaíochta agus baineann de Fréine triail as féidearachtaí nach bhfuil triáilte go dtí seo.”
— Mícheál Ó Ruairc



Menna Elfyn is an award-winning poet, playwright who has published sixteen collections of poetry, children's novels, libretti for UK and US composers, plays for radio and television in Welsh and English. Her bilingual volume *Murmur* (Bloodaxe Books, 2012) was a Poetry Book Society Recommended Translation. She has been

translated into over twenty languages. Her latest collection *Parch* (Bloodaxe Books, 2025) and also the first ever Arabic/Welsh/English collection *Let the World's People Sing* (H'mm Foundation, 2025). A new Welsh language collection *Carco* (Welsh for caring) will be published in May 2026, a Selected 1976-2026 which marks her fifty years of publishing solely in the Welsh language.

“Menna Elfyn is the firebird of the Welsh language, bright, indomitably modern and as indestructible as the phoenix. She gives hope to all writers in lesser spoken languages that great things can rise from the ashes.”
— Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill



Reading & Discussion

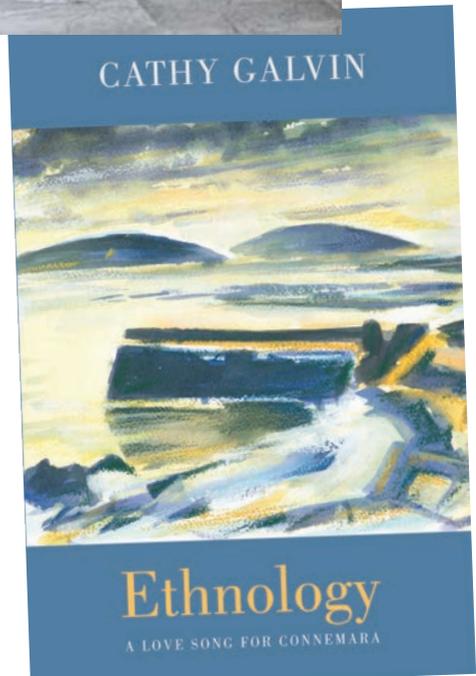
Cathy Galvin (UK) & Greg Rappleye (USA) Moderated by David McLoghlin

Thursday 14th 7.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

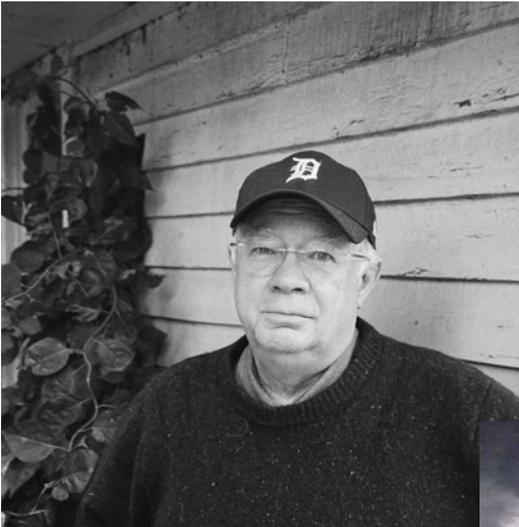
Cathy Galvin published three pamphlets, *Black & Blue* (2014), *Rough Translation* (2016) and *Walking The Coventry Ring Road with Lady Godiva* (2019), before her first full-length book of poetry, *Ethnology: a love song for Connemara* (Bloodaxe Books, 2026). She has been nominated for several awards including the Ilkley Poetry Prize, the Listowel Poetry Collection Prize and the Goldsmiths/ Spread the Word Life-Writing Prize, and is the recipient of a Hawthornden Fellowship, Heinrich Böll (Achill Island) residency and an Arts Council England DYCP award. She is founder of the Sunday Times Short Story Award and of the short story organisation, the Word Factory.



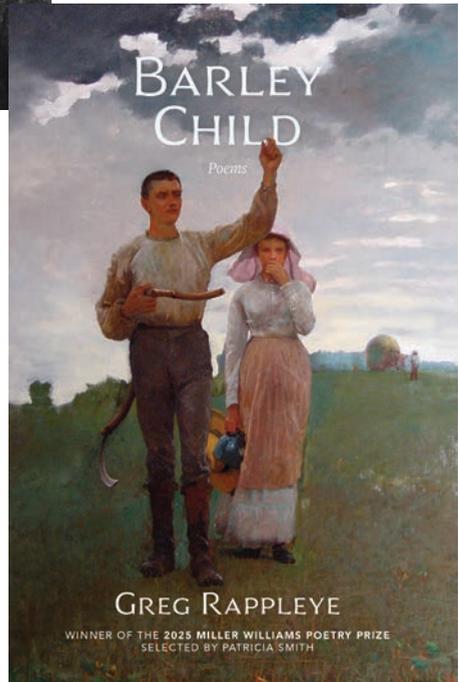
“Ethnology is a book of wonders, poised on that moment when legends become myth and songs become the wind.”
— Richard Skinner



Greg Rappleye's poems have appeared widely in the United States and have been frequently anthologized. In Ireland, his poetry has been published in *Fish Anthology 2021*, *Southword*, and elsewhere. His second collection, *A Path Between Houses* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2000) won the Brittingham Prize. His third book, *Figured Dark* (University of Arkansas Press, 2007), was a finalist for the Arkansas Prize in Poetry. His fourth collection, *Tropical Landscape with Ten Hummingbirds* (Dos Madres Press, 2018), won the Arts & Letters Prize. *Barley Child* (University of Arkansas Press, 2025), concerns his Irish-American family and won the 2025 Miller Williams Prize.



“[A] richly imagined and lyrically presented record of the Irish American experience from the pen of someone who knows, who can reliably summon up both its reality and its spirit.”
— Robert Dunsdon

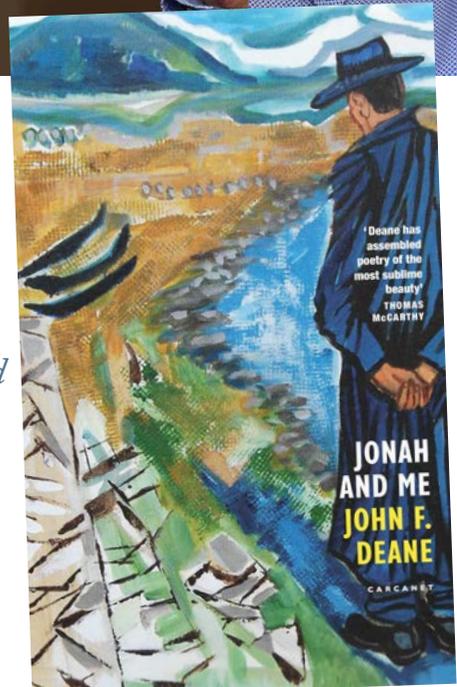
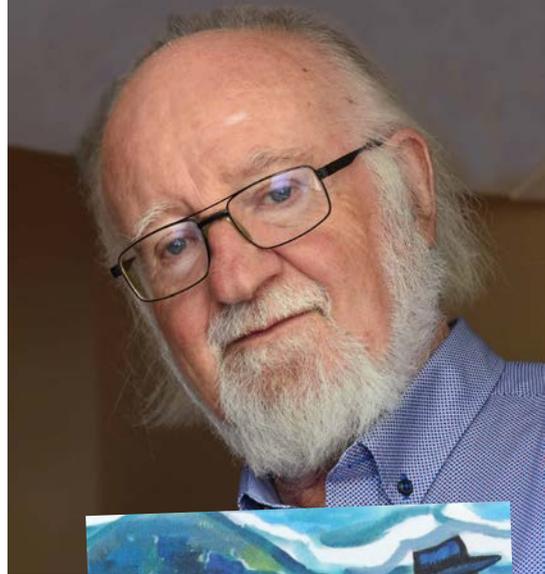


Reading & Discussion

John F. Deane (Ireland) & Martha Sprackland (UK) Moderated by Patrick Holloway

Thursday 14th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

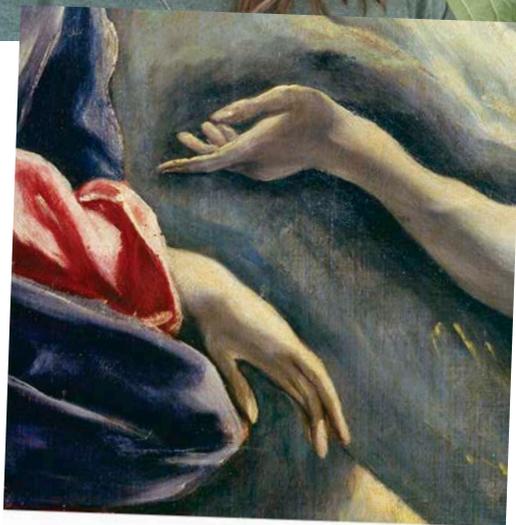
John F. Deane was born on Achill Island off the west coast of Ireland. He is founder of Poetry Ireland, Ireland's national poetry society, and its journal *The Poetry Ireland Review*. He is a member of Aosdána, the Irish arts academy. In October of 2023 Carcanet published *Selected and New Poems*, a generous choice of poems from earlier years, together with a substantial sequence of new work. In 2025 Guillemot Press published the third "bookling", *The Red Gate*. A new collection of poems, *Jonah and Me*, was published from Carcanet in December of 2025 and has become a recommendation of the Poetry Book Society in London.



“John F. Deane’s new collection invites us to pause at the sea’s edge – whether sandy or steep – and look out into an uncontrolled vista of strangeness that is also life-giving. But we are also invited to look with the same patience and intensity into the mystery of memory, individual and familial, and the dark mystery of contemporary violence.”

30 — Rowan Williams

Martha Sprackland is an editor, writer and translator. *Citadel* (Pavilion, 2020) was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the Costa Poetry Award; a new collection is forthcoming in 2027. Martha teaches for Arvon, where she is also a Trustee. Martha's translations from Spanish include poems and stories by Ana Gorriá, Gladys Mendía, Verónica Viola Fisher and Sara Mesa, and in 2021 she was shortlisted for the Peirene–Stevens Translation Prize for fiction. Her new translation of sixteenth-century Spanish mystic St John of the Cross, *Dark Night: Poetry and Selected Prose*, is published by Penguin Classics (2026).



[A] sensitive and luminous translation by Martha Sprackland ... Dark Night gives us a picture of faith at once confronting and inspiring, and of the power of words as a means of spiritual transcendence.

PENGUIN CLASSICS



JOHN OF THE CROSS

DARK NIGHT

Reading & Discussion

Christina Hennemann (Germany/Ireland) & Audrey Molloy (Ireland/Australia) Moderated by Róisín Leggett Bohan

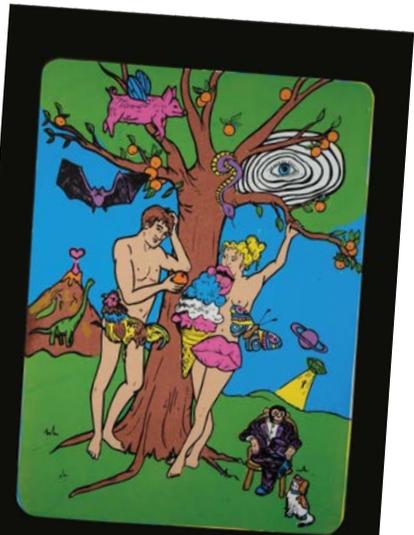
Thursday 14th 10.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Christina Hennemann is the author of the poetry collection *Birthmark* (Shearsman, 2025) and three poetry pamphlets. Her awards include the Cerasus Poetry Prize, the Luain Press Poetry Prize, an Agility Award from Arts Council Ireland, a Mayo Artist Bursary, a Diana Woods Memorial Award in Creative Nonfiction, and the shared Ireland Freedom to Write Award supported by the John Hewitt Society and Irish PEN. Her work has appeared in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Southword*, *Magma*, *Poetry Wales*, *New Irish Writing*, and elsewhere. She was born and raised in Germany and has found her home on the west coast of Ireland.

“This remarkable book is charged throughout with pulsing, tactile language; with feral, meaty, intense and intensely sexual poems, in which bodily, linguistic and geographical entities strive towards merging.”

— Christodoulos Makris

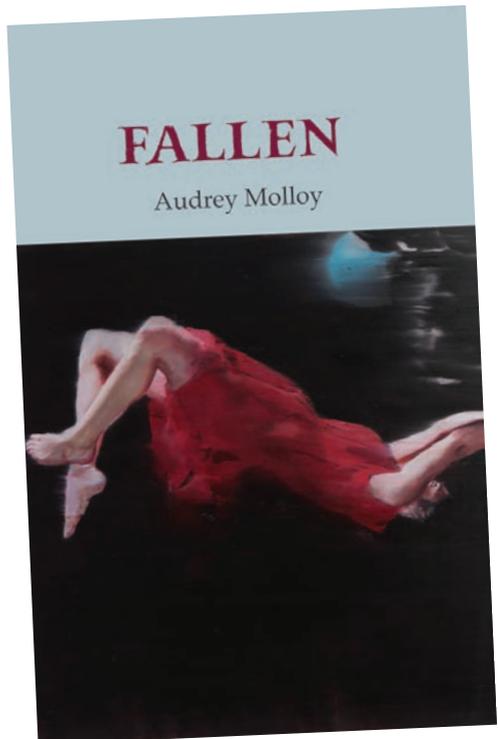


BIRTHMARK

Christina Hennemann

Audrey Molloy grew up in Ireland and has lived in Sydney since 1998. Her debut collection *The Important Things* (The Gallery Press, 2021) received the Anne Elder Award and was shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney First Collection Poetry Prize. Her third collection *Fallen* is published by both The Gallery Press and Pitt Street Poetry. Audrey has an MA in Creative Writing (Poetry) from Manchester Metropolitan University. She has been shortlisted for major awards including the Montreal, Peter Porter, Bridport and Moth poetry prizes. She is co-editor of *The Marrow International Poetry*.

“This mature and grounded voice, unafraid to expose the fragility and vulnerability that come with life’s experiences, is suffused with human warmth that connects with and engages the reader.”
— Ella Jeffery



Reading

Prebooked Poetry Introductions

Friday 15th 2.30pm **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.

Submissions are open at southword.submittable.com from 1st – 24th March.

The line-up of chosen poets will be announced in April at corkpoetryfest.net.

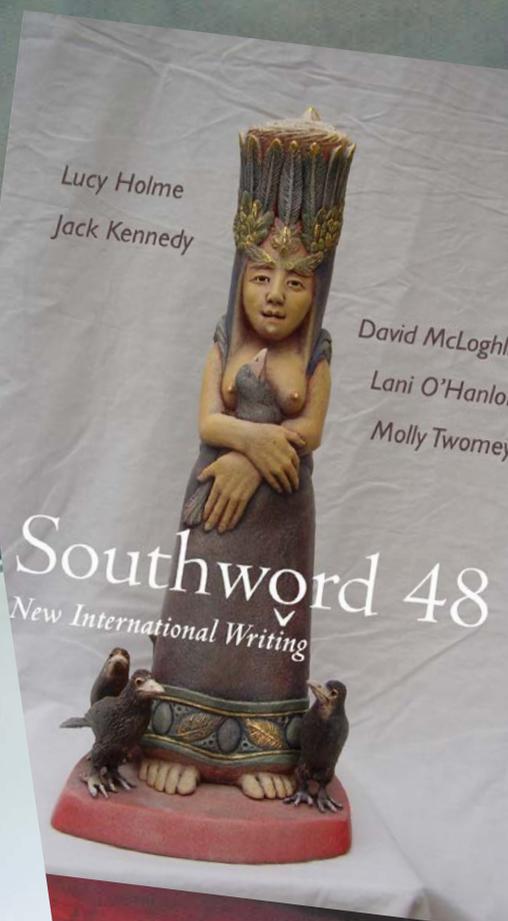
SOUTHWORD

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Reading & Discussion

Anna Gruver (Ukraine) & Xaime Martínez (Spain) Moderated by Clíona Ní Riordáin

Friday 15th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free



VERSOPOLIS
Poetry

Anna Gruver (born in 1996) – Ukrainian writer, poetess, translator. Member of PEN Ukraine. Author of the poetry book *За вашим запитом нічого не знайдено* (*Nothing was found for your request*), 2019, the novels *Її порожні місця* (*Her Empty Places*), 2022, and *Нерухомість* (*Stillness*), 2025. Her poems have been translated into many languages. From English she translated the book by Katie Ferris */boysgirls/*, 2021 and in collaboration with Vasylyl Makhno Bohdan Zadura's book *Прості Істини* (*Simple Truths*), 2024. Gruver translates essays and contemporary poetry from Ukrainian into Polish and vice versa. Winner of the Krakow UNESCO City of Literature Award (2025). Editor of the memorial book dedicated to Ihor Kozlovsky (2025).



“The external ‘geographism’ captures feelings and visions — there’s a kind of breakdown of geodesic and gravitational laws ... she believes that the collision, crossing, and blending of genres may be the only way forward today.”
— Natalia Belchenko



Xaime Martínez (Uviéu, Spain, 1993) is the author of the Spanish-language poetry collections *Fuego cruzado* (Hiperión, 2014: Antonio Carvajal Young Poetry Prize) and *Cuerpos perdidos en las morgues* (Ultramarinos, 2018: Miguel Hernández National Young Poetry Prize). In Asturian, he has published the poetry collections *Hibernia* (Ediciones Saltadera, 2017) and *Pábilun* (Ultramarinos, 2025: translated into Spanish by Fruela Fernández). His poems have been translated into English, Swedish and Catalan. He is the author of the novel *La fuercia* (Hoja de Lata, 2021), also translated into Spanish: *La fuerza* (Malastierras, 2023). He is responsible for the Asturian literature label Cierva y Culebra Ediciones.

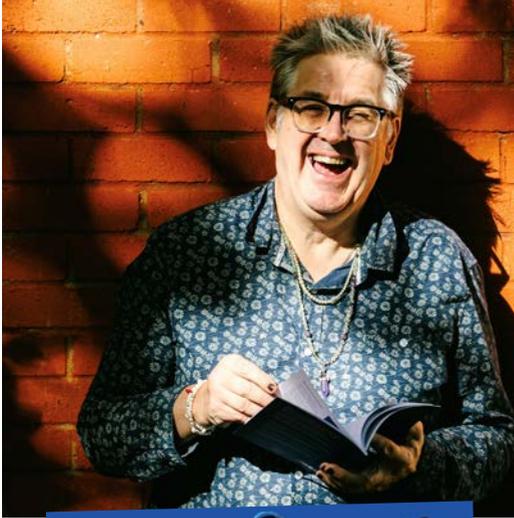
“The vast array of perspectives offered by Xaime Martínez’s poetry places us before a literary line that is eclectic, mystical, and at times intentionally blurred. His writing is the manifestation of a continuous and voracious literary reflection.”
— Guillermo Sánchez Ungidos



Reading & Discussion

Simon Maddrell (UK)
& **Máighr ad Medbh** (Ireland)
Moderated by Paul Casey

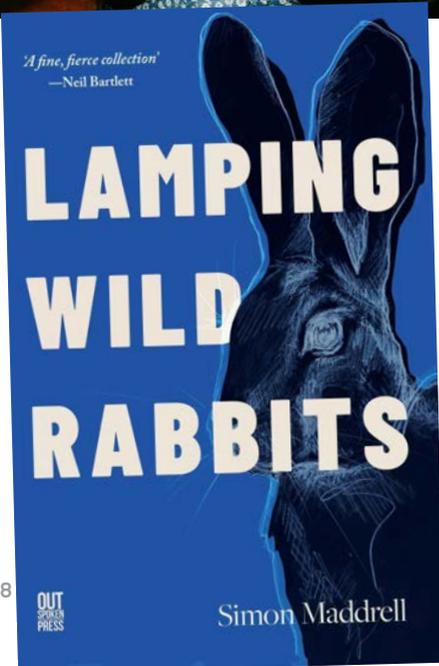
Friday 15th 7.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission  5



Simon Maddrell is a Manx poet, editor and educator whose work appears in *Abridged*, *AMBIT*, *Gutter*, *Magma*, *Poetry Wales*, *SAND*, *Southword*, *Stand*, *The Gay & Lesbian Review*, *The London Magazine*, *The Moth*, *The Rialto*, *The Waxed Lemon*, and *Under the Radar*.

He has seven chapbooks: *Throatbone* (UnCollected Press, 2020); *Queerfella* (The Rialto, 2020); *The Whole Island* (Valley Press, 2023); *Isle of Sin; a finger in derek jarman's mouth* and *Patient L1* (Polaris Press, 2023, 2024, 2025); *Jo & Ni Go Cruising* (Septum Press, 2025).

Simon's debut collection is *lamping wild rabbits* (Out-Spoken Press, 2026). Find them on social media @simonmaddrell



“A queer odyssey, an exquisite and arresting chronicle of the journey from shame to belonging. The skin of these poems are stretched thin and beneath them we glimpse a crystalline world of courage wrought from fear. Bold, surreal, surprising and elegant; this is a breathtaking debut.”

— Joelle Taylor



*“The poems have
a kind of verbal
intoxication
and head-long,
devil-may-care
adrenalin pumped
up with the
rhythms of rock,
rap, and reggae.”*

— Andrew Swarbrick

Máighréad Medbh is a poet and prose writer with nine published books. Most of her poetry books are long-form sequences or narratives, and her ecological verse novel, *Parvit of Agelast* (Arlen House), was shortlisted for the 2017 Pigott Prize. After her first book from Blackstaff Press in 1990, she earned a reputation for dramatic presentation, performing widely in Ireland and abroad. She has written for radio, collaborated on award-winning art films, and has three novels online. In 2025 she was awarded the Aodh Ruadh Ó Domhnaill Poetry Exchange, during which she completed her new work *Dwelling*, a transhistorical exploration of identity, change and displacement, conflating poetry and essay.



M á i g h r é a d M e d b h

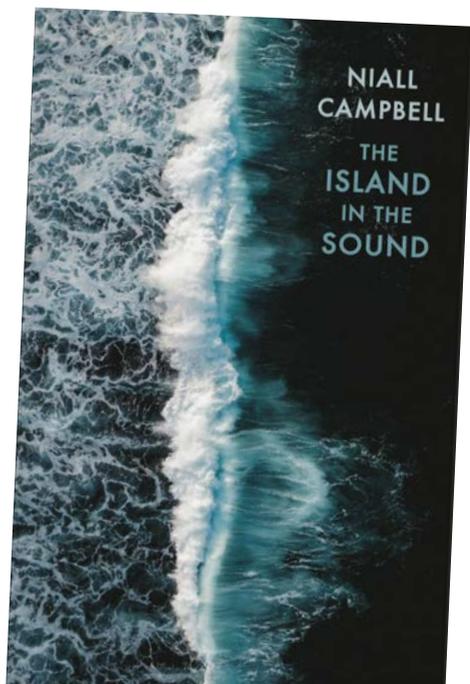
Reading & Discussion

Niall Campbell (UK) & Polly Clark (Canada/UK) Moderated by Lucy Holme

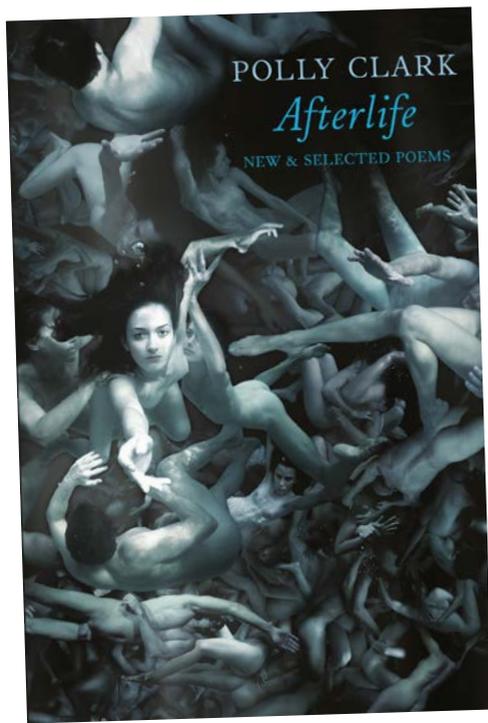
Friday 15th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

*“There’s a deep music to Niall Campbell’s *The Island in the Sound*, as well as a strong sense of place at the edge of the ocean, perhaps the edge of the world. Campbell’s poems treat life, death, love, time and belonging with tender exactitude.”*
— Sean O’Brien

Niall Campbell is a poet from the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. His first poetry collection, *Moon tide*, won the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award and Saltire First Book of the Year. *Noctuary*, his second collection, was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection in 2019. A selection from these first two books were published in the U.S. as *First Nights*, part of the Princeton Series of Contemporary Poets. His most recent collection, *The Island in the Sound*, was also shortlisted for the Forward Prize Best Collection in 2025. He is the editor of the acclaimed poetry journal, *Poetry London*.



Polly Clark is an award-winning poet and novelist, born in Canada and brought up in Scotland. *Afterlife: New and Selected Poems* draws on her three previous books of poetry, *Kiss*, the TS Eliot Prize-shortlisted *Take Me With You* and *Farewell My Lovely*. She is the author of three novels, *Larchfield* (2017), which fictionalised a little-known period in the life of WH Auden, *Tiger* (2019) and her latest *Ocean* (2025) described by Louis de Bernières as ‘Strange, wondrous and compelling’. She divides her time between the West of Scotland and a houseboat in London.



“The strength of this collection lies in images so precisely right that they immediately establish the authenticity of whichever perspective is adopted. Her carefully weighted words build pictures of remarkable clarity.”

— Sarah Crown

Reading & Discussion

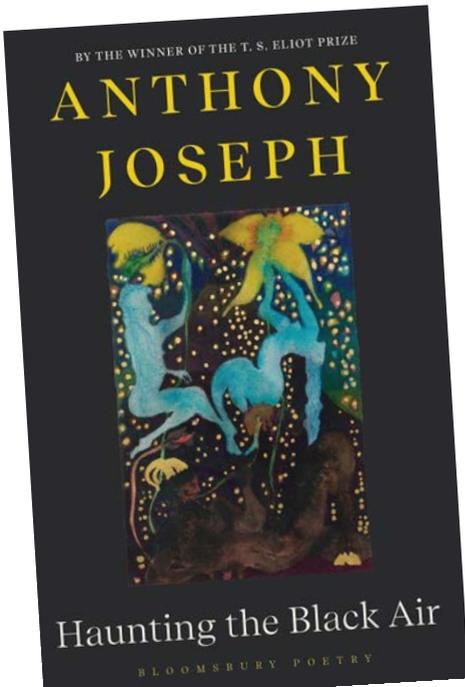
Anthony Joseph (Trinidad and Tobago/UK) & Patricia Smith (USA) Moderated by Isabelle Baafi

Friday 15th 10.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

Dr Anthony Joseph F.R.S.L. is an award-winning Trinidad-born poet, novelist, academic and musician. His 2022 collection *Sonnets for Albert* won the T.S. Eliot Prize for Poetry 2022 and the OCM BOCAS Prize for Caribbean Poetry. He is the author of six poetry collections and three novels. His 2018 novel *Kitch: A Fictional Biography of a Calypso Icon* was shortlisted for the Republic of Consciousness Prize, the Royal Society of Literature's Encore Award and the OCM Bocas Prize for Caribbean Fiction. As a musician, he has released nine critically acclaimed albums. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and a Lecturer in Creative Writing at Kings College, London.



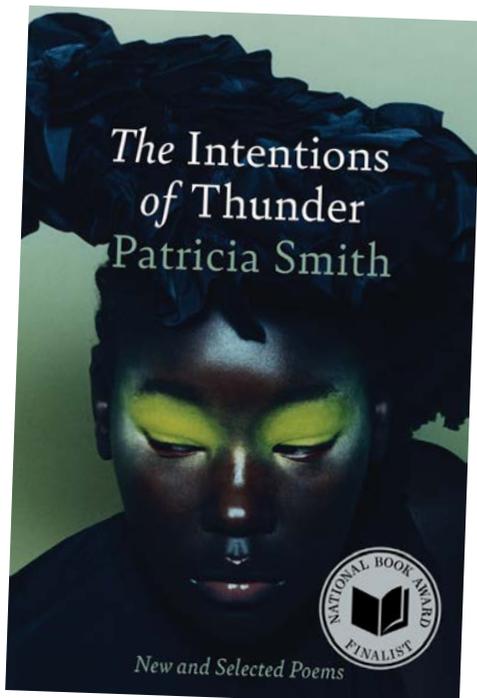
PHOTOGRAPHER: SPENCER MCPHERSON



“Joseph is both a faithful heir and an agnostic rebel; a Black poet haunted by Africa's past as well as a bilingual post-modernist amused by the possibilities of the future.”
— Ali Alizadeh



Patricia Smith has authored ten books of poetry, including *The Intentions of Thunder: New and Selected Poems*, winner of the 2025 National Book Award for Poetry; *Unshuttered*; *Incendiary Art*, winner of the Kingsley Tufts Award, the LA Times Book Prize, and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; *Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah*, winner of the Lenore Marshall Prize from the Academy of American Poets; and *Blood Dazzler*, a National Book Award finalist. Her work has appeared in *Best American Poetry*, *Best American Essays* and *Best American Mystery Stories*. Smith is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a chancellor in the Academy of American Poets, and a Guggenheim fellow.



“Patricia Smith’s The Intentions of Thunder chronicles America’s traditions, tragedies, and triumphs with steadfast invention ... these new and selected poems are personal while communal; immediate while historical; demonstrative while sublime.”
— 2025 National Book Award Judge’s Citation

Award Presentations

Fool for Poetry & Gregory O' Donoghue Prize Readings

Saturday 16th 3.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

The winning chapbooks of the Fool for Poetry International Chapbook Competition, *Playing Paradise* by Katie Hale and *We Fall, We Carry* by Róisín Leggett Bohan, will be unveiled with readings. The winning poem of the Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition, 'Seeing Red' by Anthony Lawrence will be read by a local actor.

Fool for Poetry Competition Joint Winner

PHOTOGRAPHER: PHIL RIGBY



Katie Hale is a novelist and poet, based in Cumbria. She won a Northern Debut Award for her poetry collection, *White Ghosts*, and is the author of two novels: *The Edge of Solitude* and *My Name is Monster*. She is a former MacDowell Fellow, and winner of the Palette Poetry Prize, Northern Writers'

Award, and Aesthetica Creative Writing Prize. She has held Writer in Residence positions in numerous countries, including Australia, the US and Svalbard. Katie also mentors young writers through Writing Squad.

Fool for Poetry Competition Joint Winner



Róisín Leggett Bohan is a writer from Cork. In 2025, she was the winner of the Patrick Kavanagh Award. In the same year, she was shortlisted for the Alpine Fellowship Poetry Prize, Aesthetica Creative Writing Award, and was longlisted for the Poetry Society's National Poetry Competition. Her work features in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Banshee*, *The Manchester Review*, Dedalus Press, and was showcased on RTÉ Radio 1. She is the co-founder of *HOWL New Irish Writing*, holds an MA in Creative Writing from UCC, and is a grateful recipient of an Arts Council Literature Bursary and Cork City Council Artist Bursaries.

Gregory O'Donoghue Competition 1st Prize

Anthony Lawrence has published nineteen collections of poems and a novel. His books and individual poems have won a number of awards, including the Australian Prime Minister's Award for Poetry, the Ginkgo prize for Eco poetry and the New South Wales Premiers Award. He lives on Moreton Bay, Queensland.

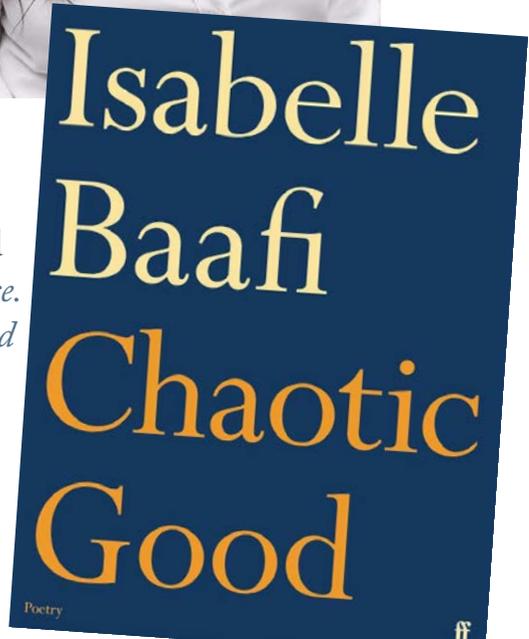


Reading & Discussion

Isabelle Baafi (UK) & Dean Browne (Ireland) Moderated by Patrick Cotter

Saturday 16th 4.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

Isabelle Baafi is the author of *Chaotic Good* (Faber & Faber / Wesleyan University Press, 2025), which won the Jerwood Prize for Best First Collection and is shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. Her pamphlet *Ripe* (ignition press, 2020) won a Somerset Maugham Award and was a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice. She won First Prize in the Winchester Poetry Prize 2023 and Second Prize in the London Magazine Poetry Prize 2022. Her writing has been published in *Granta*, *the TLS*, *The Poetry Review*, *Callaloo*, *The London Magazine* and elsewhere. She edits at *Poetry London* and *Magma*.

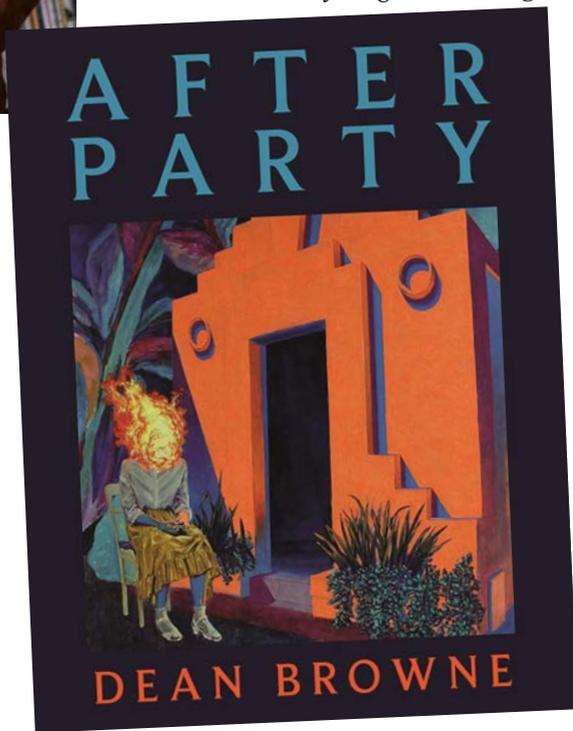


“Isabelle Baafi’s Chaotic Good is a debut of amazing endurance. Its formal pressures create a kind of kaleidoscopic intensity that – with each turn of the chamber – brings newly beautiful and painful shapes into focus.”
— Will Harris



Dean Browne is an award-winning poet from Co. Tipperary, Ireland. His debut collection *After Party* is published by Picador and is a Poetry Society Recommendation. Browne received the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize in 2021, and his pamphlet, *Kitchens at Night*, won the Poetry Business International Pamphlet Competition; it is published by Smith|Doorstop (2022). His poems are widely published internationally, in outlets such as *New York Review of Books*, *Columbia Review*, *London Magazine*, *Poetry Review*, *The Irish Times*, *The Stinging Fly*, *PN Review*, and *Poetry Magazine* (Chicago).

“Dean Browne is a terrific poet: his language is agile and fresh, his ideas surprising, and the reader feels invigorated, renewed – and lucky to have met such poems.”
— Nick Laird



Reading & Discussion

Kevin Graham (Ireland) & Bruce Snider (USA) Moderated by David McLoghlin

Saturday 16th 7.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Kevin Graham lives with his family in Dublin. His first collection, *The Lookout Post*, was published by The Gallery Press in 2023. It was shortlisted for the John Pollard Prize and won the Southword Debut Poetry Collection Award. In 2025 he won The London Magazine Poetry Prize. A second collection, *Time's Guest*, was published in 2025 and his third, *Daylight Mystery*, will be out in 2026.

TIME'S GUEST

Kevin Graham

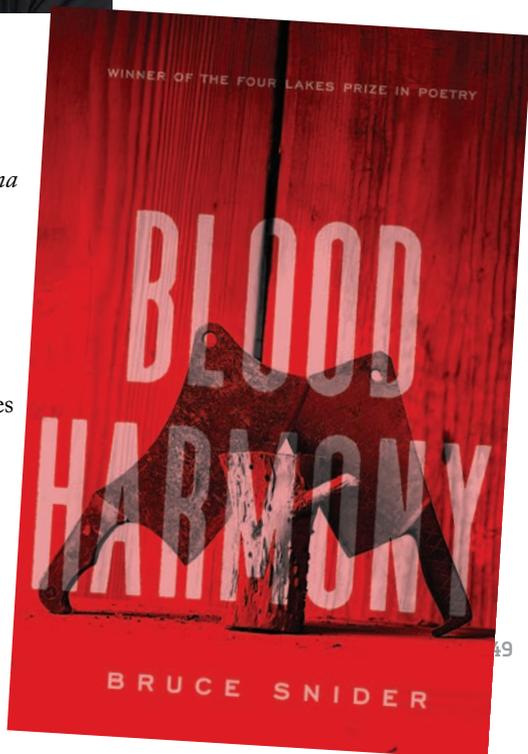


“For years now Kevin Graham’s formal skill and emotional power have marked him out as a rare poetic talent.”
— Ciarán O’Rourke



“There is a mythic precision in Blood Harmony, a collection of the limits of recovery and language (‘There was always need in the needle’); heartbreaking elegy; and always Indiana, a place of ice and kerosene but also ‘unmown grass, sweetness, rain.’ No American poet is as empathetic as Bruce Snider.”
— Randall Mann

Bruce Snider is the author of four poetry collections, *Blood Harmony* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2025); *Fruit* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2020); *Paradise, Indiana* (Pleiades Press, 2013); and *The Year We Studied Women* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2003). He is co-editor of *The Poem’s Country: Place & Poetic Practice* (Pleiades Press, 2018). His poems and essays have been published widely in literary magazines such as *American Poetry Review*, *Best American Poetry*, *Harvard Review*, *Iowa Review*, *New England Review*, and *POETRY*, among others. He lives in Baltimore and teaches in the Writing Seminars at Johns Hopkins University.

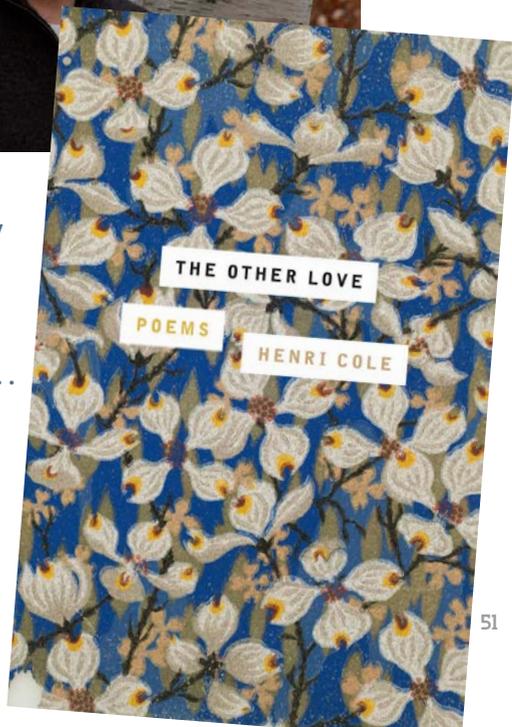


Henri Cole was born in Fukuoka, Japan to a French mother and an American father. He has published eleven collections of poetry and received many awards, including the Jackson Prize, the Kingsley Tufts Award, the Rome prize, the Berlin Prize, the Lenore Marshall Award, and the Medal in Poetry from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. His books have been translated into French, German, Spanish, Italian and Arabic. He has also published *Orphic Paris*, a memoir.



PHOTOGRAPHER: STAR BLACK

“These are hopeful and gilded poems, managing to suggest the rich life of the mind but never abandoning the body ... [The Other Love] reveals a new edge to Cole’s voice—composed, taut with nerves, but tempered with wisdom.”
— Publisher’s Weekly



Reading & Discussion

Kim Moore (UK)

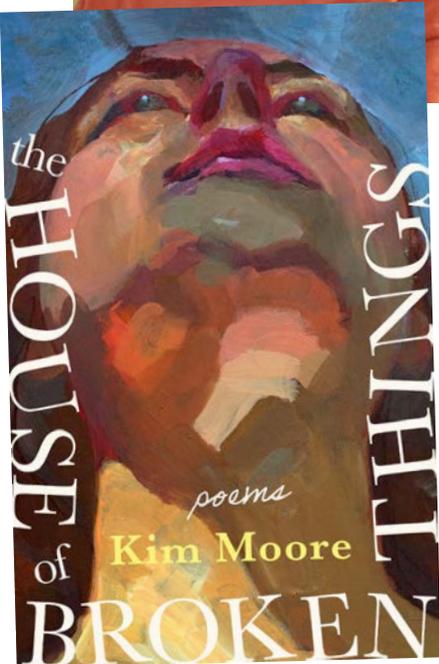
& Annemarie Ní Churreáin (Ireland)

Moderated by **Thomas McCarthy**

Saturday 16th 10.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Kim Moore's forthcoming collection *The House of Broken Things* will be published by Corsair in May 2026. Her second collection *All the Men I Never Married* (Seren, 2021) won the 2022 Forward Prize for Best Collection. Her first collection *The Art of Falling* (Seren, 2015) won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize. She also writes non-fiction, publishing *What the Trumpet Taught Me* (Smith|Doorstop, 2022) and *Are You Judging Me Yet? Poetry and Everyday Sexism* (Seren, 2023). She is a Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University and Deputy Programme Leader of the MA and MFA in Creative Writing.



“These are terrifically assured poems – sensual, perceptive, entertaining – which bridge the gap between feeling and utterance with a genuine lyric gift.”

— Carol Ann Duffy

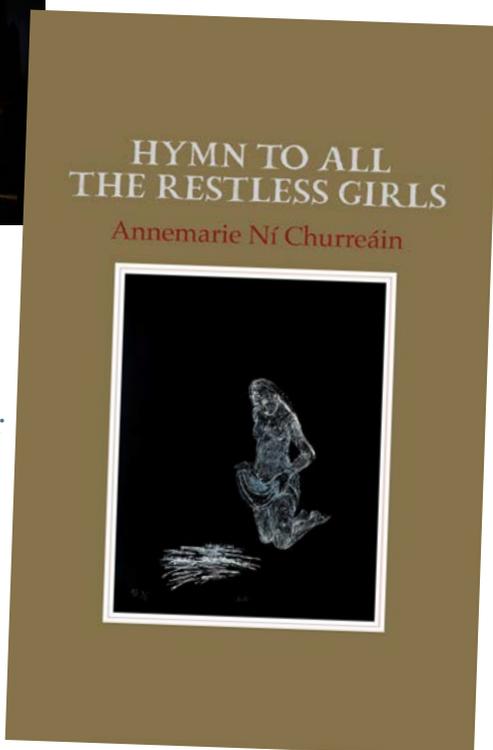
Annemarie Ní Churreáin comes from the Donegal Gaeltacht. Her third poetry collection, *Hymn to All the Restless Girls*, published by The Gallery



PHOTOGRAPHER: BARRY McCALL

Press (2025), appears in The Irish Times Best Poetry of 2025 and among the RTÉ Culture Best Irish Books of the Year. She is a recipient of the Arts Council's Next Generation Artist Award, the Markievicz Award and the Patrick Kavanagh Fellowship. Ní Churreáin is a recent Writer in Residence at The Hawthornden Foundation, New York. She is the poetry editor at *The Stinging Fly*.

“This collection is not a hymn book ‘for’ these restless girls: it is addressed to them: they are ones being sung to; they are the ones being acknowledged, celebrated, and reclaimed here.”
— Aoife Lyall



Moderators

Isabelle Baafi is the author of *Chaotic Good* (Faber & Faber / Wesleyan University Press, 2025), which won the Jerwood Prize for Best First Collection and is shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. Her pamphlet *Ripe* (ignition press, 2020) won a Somerset Maugham Award and was a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice. She won First Prize in the Winchester Poetry Prize 2023 and Second Prize in the London Magazine Poetry Prize 2022.

Dean Browne is an award-winning poet from Co. Tipperary, Ireland. His debut collection *After Party* is published by Picador and is a Poetry Society Recommendation. Browne received the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize in 2021, and his pamphlet, *Kitchens at Night*, won the Poetry Business International Pamphlet Competition; it is published by Smith|Doorstop (2022).

Paul Casey's poems have most recently appeared in *The Stony Thursday Book* and *Maple Leaf Anthology*. *Virtual Tides* was published by Salmon Poetry in 2016, which followed *home more or less* (Salmon, 2012) and a chapbook, *It's Not All Bad* (Heaventree, 2009). He edits the annual *Unfinished Book of Poetry* anthology for secondary schools. *Quilt*, a chapbook, will be published by SurVision Books in 2026.

Patrick Cotter was 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. *Quality Control at the Miracle Factory*, his fourth full-length collection, was published by Dedalus Press in 2025.

Patrick Holloway is a prize-winning author of fiction and poetry. His debut novel, *The Language of Remembering*, was published to critical acclaim. His second novel, *Interlude*, is forthcoming with Eriu. He has won the Bath Short Story Prize, Flash 500, and the Molly Keane Creative Writing Prize. His work appears in *The Stinging Fly*, *The London Magazine*, *The Moth*, and *Southword*. He edits the literary journal *The Four Faced Liar*.

Lucy Holme is a PhD student at University College Cork. She won the Southword Editor's Award and the Cúirt New Writing Prize for Poetry 2024. Her debut chapbook, *Temporary Stasis* (Broken Sleep Books 2022), was shortlisted for The Patrick Kavanagh Award. A nonfiction essay collection, *Blue Diagonals*, was published in September 2024. Her new poetry chapbook *Sardines*, written collaboratively with Vasiliki Albedo, has just been published by Dialect Press.

Róisín Leggett Bohan is a writer from Cork and co-winner of this year's Fool for Poetry International Poetry Competition. In 2025, she was the winner of the Patrick Kavanagh Award. She is the co-founder of *HOWL New Irish Writing*, holds an MA in Creative Writing from UCC, and is a grateful recipient of an Arts Council Literature Bursary and Cork City Council Artist Bursaries.

Thomas McCarthy was born in Co. Waterford and educated at UCC. His many collections of poetry include *Pandemonium* (2016) and *Prophecy* (2019). A former Editor of *Poetry Ireland Review*, he is a member of Aosdána. His diaries, *Poetry, Memory and the Party*, were published in 2022 by The Gallery Press. His latest collection is *Plenitude* (Carcenet Press, 2025).

Afric McGlinchey's first two poetry collections were translated into Italian. *Tied to the Wind* (Broken Sleep Books, 2021), a hybrid memoir, was awarded an Arts Council Literature Bursary, translated into Macedonian and broadcast over five nights on RTÉ's *The Book on One*. A multi-award-winning poet, Afric's most recent collection, *À la belle étoile – the odyssey of Jeanne Baré* (Salmon Poetry), has been nominated for the Forward and Piggott Prizes.

David McLoughlin's third poetry collection *Crash Centre* was shortlisted for the 2025 Piggott Poetry Prize in association with Listowel Writers Week. Also in 2025 he was awarded an Arts Council Literature Bursary for memoir and won the Waterford Poetry Prize. He received a Katherine and Patrick Kavanagh Fellowship in 2023.

Clíona Ní Ríordáin is a critic, translator, and O'Donnell Chair of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Among her publications are *English Language Poets in University College Cork 1970–1980* (Palgrave, 2020). Her translations of Maylis Besserie's Irish trilogy appeared from Lilliput. A personal anthology of Gerry Murphy's poems, *Plus loin encore* (co-translator Paul Bensimon) appeared with Circe in 2022. She has also edited four anthologies of Irish poetry.

Billy Ramsell's third poetry collection *Render* is forthcoming from Banshee Press. His first two poetry collections are *Complicated Pleasures* (Dedalus Press, 2007) and *The Architect's Dream of Winter* (Dedalus Press, 2013), which was shortlisted for the Irish Times Poetry Now Award and recently appeared in Italian translation. His recent work has appeared in *Poetry*, *Poetry London*, *The Poetry Review* and elsewhere.

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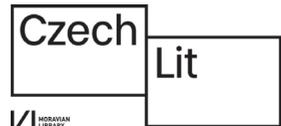
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