

# Welcome

It is true. Poetry can attract odd characters. Notorious genocidal maniacs such as Mao Zedong, Joseph Stalin and Radovan Karadžić all identified themselves as poets, although their literary achievements never matched those of the poets who were among the millions that suffered under them. The oddest characters now populate the executive government of the United States of America, though thankfully, thus far, none of them has attempted to inflict mediocre poetry on us. On the contrary, poetry appears to be one of the last redoubts which can effectively resist the lies, distortions of truth, denial of feeling that are the hallmarks of authoritarians and despots. Great poetry can do this because great poetry keeps language new, free of the staleness of sloganeering, the jeering (composed of set combinations of words) thoughtlessly trotted out like a preprogrammed macro. Rehearsed speech full of clichés, utterable without aforethought, is consequently hollowed-out of meaning and feeling, yet curiously capable of provoking kneejerk reactions in individuals who do not have the time or training to pause and analyse what they have just heard.

The opportunity to learn how to think deeply about what you say and what others say to you is afforded to anyone through engagement with poetry. And at the Cork International Poetry Festival you will have the opportunity to engage with some of the great contemporary geniuses now working in language, in English, Irish, Turkish and other tongues too. The poets here not only address the most essential human concerns of love, aging and grieving, but many too engage with the most crucial socio-political issues of today. Look inside this festival catalogue to discover someone essential, someone you could otherwise be missing.

Patrick Cotter  
*poet, festival director*

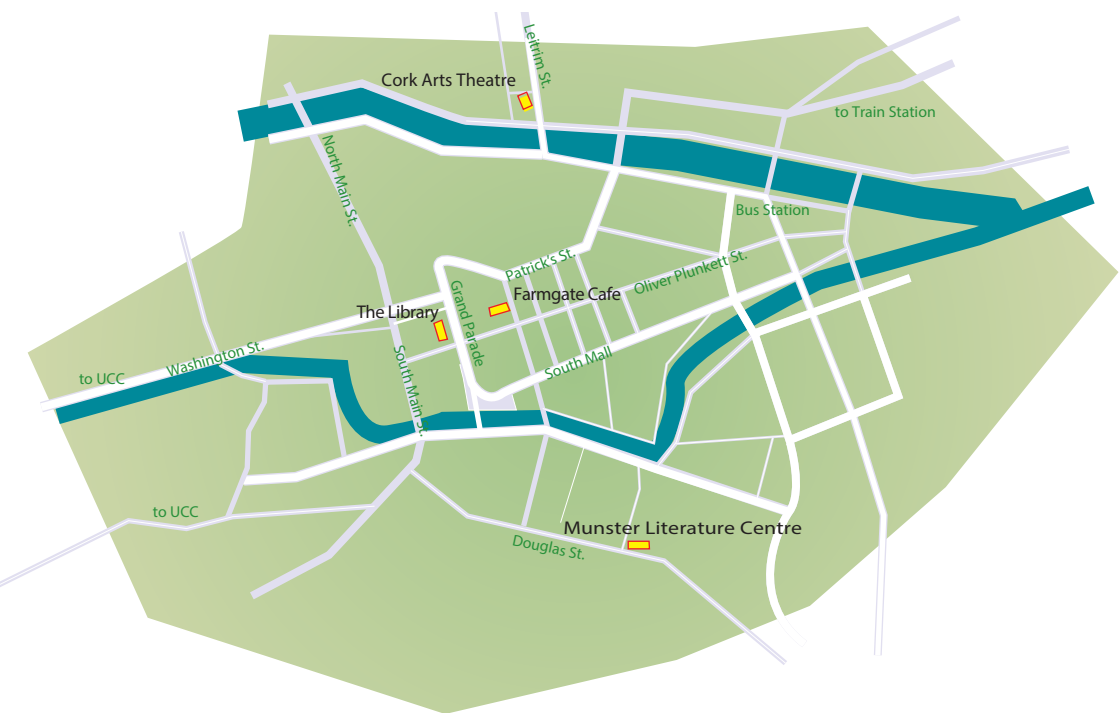
  /munsterliteraturecentre  
 /munsterlitcentre.bsky.social  
#CorkPoetryFest



Cover image: *Horse*, oil on canvas, by Anna Barden (1971-2024)  
from the collection of the Munster Literature Centre



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](http://www.corkpoetryfest.net) until Monday 28th 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](http://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](mailto:info@munsterlit.ie)

**Pay through credit card/PayPal at**

**[www.corkpoetryfest.net](http://www.corkpoetryfest.net)**



**MUNSTER LITERATURE CENTRE**  
Ionad Litríochta an Deisceart

# Manuscript Feedback

Early booking is advised. Contact [info@munsterlit.ie](mailto:info@munsterlit.ie) for booking enquiries and visit [www.corkpoetryfest.net](http://www.corkpoetryfest.net) for the most up-to-date information on availability.

## A Fresh Pair of Eyes!

### One-to-one manuscript feedback with James Harpur

Two half-hour appointments available each day

11am & 11.30am, 14th - 17th May

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

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. James 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 – James 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.

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. Advance booking is essential – only eight half-hour sessions are available, Wednesday to Saturday. Manuscripts must be sent to James at least two weeks in advance of the festival.

James Harpur has had nine poetry collections published, including his latest, *The Gospel of Gargyle*, Eblana Press ([www.eblanapress.com](http://www.eblanapress.com)). He has won a number of prizes and awards, including the 1995 UK National Poetry Competition, the Michael Hartnett Prize, and the Vincent Buckley Prize. He is a member of Aosdána and lives in West Cork.

## Workshops

Early booking is advised. Contact [info@munsterlit.ie](mailto:info@munsterlit.ie) for booking enquiries and visit [www.corkpoetryfest.net](http://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 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 very small class where each person's work will receive much individual attention. They will submit their poem(s) in advance.

### **Pat Boran Masterclass** (biographical note page 18)

9.30am to 12.30pm Wednesday 14th May

### **John McAuliffe Masterclass** (biographical note page 20)

9.30am to 12.30pm Thursday 15th May

### **Pádraig Ó Tuama Masterclass** (biographical note page 33)

9.30am to 12.30pm Friday 16th May

### **Fiona Benson Masterclass** (biographical note page 48)

9.30am to 12.30pm Saturday 17th May

# Programme Outline

Tuesday 13th – Saturday 17th May

  /munsterliteraturecentre  
 /munsterlitcentre.bsky.social  
#CorkPoetryFest

## Monday 12th

These Monday Fringe Events (not managed or produced by the Munster Literature Centre) are events that we are delighted to draw attention to.

6.30pm, Waterstones | Fringe Event

page 11

Launch of *Quality Control at the Miracle Factory* by Patrick Cotter

7.30pm, Hayloft Bar | Fringe Event

page 12

Ó Bhéal go Béal

(Poetry Films, Five Word Challenge, Guest Poet Damen O'Brien & Open-Mic)

## Tuesday 13th

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](http://www.corkpoetryfest.net)**

## **Wednesday 14th**

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

**Fergal Gaynor & Kenneth Hickey**

(moderated by Patrick Holloway)

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

**Michael Dooley & Jennifer Horgan**

(moderated by Dean Browne)

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

**Pat Boran & Rosemary Jenkinson**

(moderated by Lauren O'Donovan)

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

**John McAuliffe & Thomas McCarthy**

(moderated by Lani O'Hanlon)

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

**Frank McGuinness & Maurice Riordan**

(moderated by Dean Browne)

# Programme Outline

Tuesday 13th - Saturday 17th May

  /munsterliteraturecentre  
 /munsterlitcentre.bsky.social  
#CorkPoetryFest

## Thursday 15th

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

**Maurice Devitt & Thomas Dillon Redshaw**

(moderated by David McLochlin)

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

**Alvy Carragher & Keith Payne**

(moderated by Afric McGlinchey)

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

**Susannah Dickey & Jaki McCarrick**

(moderated by Róisín Leggett Bohan)

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

**Ciaran Berry & James Harpur**

(moderated by David McLoughlin)

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

**Jane Clarke & Pádraig Ó Tuama**

(moderated by Liz Quirke)

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



**For the latest news regarding workshop availability visit [www.corkpoetryfest.net](http://www.corkpoetryfest.net)**

## **Friday 16th**

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

**Prebooked Poetry Introductions**

(moderated by James O'Leary)

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

**Bejan Matur & Tuğçe Tekhanlı**

(moderated by Keith Payne)

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

**Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill**

(moderated by Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh)

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

**Leeanne Quinn & Richard Scott**

(moderated by Pádraig Ó Tuama)

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

**Nick Makoha & Nisrine Mbarki**

(moderated by Kemi George Simpson)

# Programme Outline

Tuesday 13th - Saturday 17th May

  /munsterliteraturecentre  
 /munsterlitcentre.bsky.social  
#CorkPoetryFest

## Saturday 17th

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

**Fool for Poetry & Gregory O'Donoghue Prize Readings**

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

**4.30i.n, Cork Arts Theatre** | Ticéad €5 page 46

**Spléachadh ar *Aneas***

(á chur i láthair ag Simon Ó Faoláin)

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

**Fiona Benson & Traci Brimhall**

(moderated by Lani O'Hanlon)

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

**Romalyn Ante & Mary O'Malley**

(moderated by Róisín Leggett Bohan)

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

**Marie Howe & Krisztina Tóth**

(moderated by John FitzGerald)

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

## Fringe Event

# Launch of *Quality Control at the Miracle Factory* by Patrick Cotter

Monday 12th 6.30pm **Waterstones** | Admission free

These Monday Fringe Events (not managed or produced by the Munster Literature Centre) are events that we are delighted to draw attention to.

The fourth full-length collection of poems by Patrick Cotter, *Quality Control at the Miracle Factory* reflects the dark times of its writing, moving with unease through the world. Injustice and brutality are faced unflinchingly while the miracle of survival and endurance is credited and marvelled at, wherever it might occur.

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



*“Patrick Cotter is a poet capable of being both playful and serious to excellent effect. He has a gift for creating a rueful narrative voice that milks both sympathy and laughs from the reader. The writing is always finely crafted; it is conversational but learned, seemingly effortless.”*

— Nuala O'Connor

## Fringe Event

# Ó Bhéal go Béal

## Poetry Films, Five Word Challenge, Guest Poet Damen O'Brien & Open-Mic

Monday 12th 7.30pm **The Hayloft Bar** | Admission free

These Monday Fringe Events (not managed or produced by the Munster Literature Centre) are events that we are delighted to draw attention to.



**Damen O'Brien** is a multi-award-winning Australian poet. In 2024, he won the Fingal Poetry Prize, the Ware Poets International Poetry Competition, the Ros Spencer Poetry Prize, the Letter Review Poetry Prize, the Hunter Writers' Centre Prize and the Val Vallis Award. His poems have been published in the *London Magazine*, *Dreich Magazine*, *Live Encounters*, *Southword*, *Other Terrain* and many other journals. His latest book of poetry is *Walking the Boundary* (Pitt Street Poetry, 2024).

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). The guest poet on May 12th is Damen O'Brien. This four-part evening includes:

Selection of Cork and Irish Poetry Films (7.30pm)

Five Word Challenge (8.30pm)

Guest Poet (9.20pm)

& later Open-Mic

To participate please email [obhealgobeal.poetry@gmail.com](mailto:obhealgobeal.poetry@gmail.com)

More details at [www.obheal.ie](http://www.obheal.ie)

## Award Presentation

# The Farmgate Café National Poetry Award

Tuesday 13th 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.



The award is €2000 for the best full-length poetry collection in English (including translations from other languages) published in 2024, by a poet residing in Ireland. Judges this year were Dean Browne, Mary O'Donnell & Maurice Riordan. Limited places are available for a cosy reception at the Farmgate where the winning poet will receive their prize and present a short reading. The full list of six finalists and the link to reserve tickets will be available at [www.corkpoetryfest.net](http://www.corkpoetryfest.net).

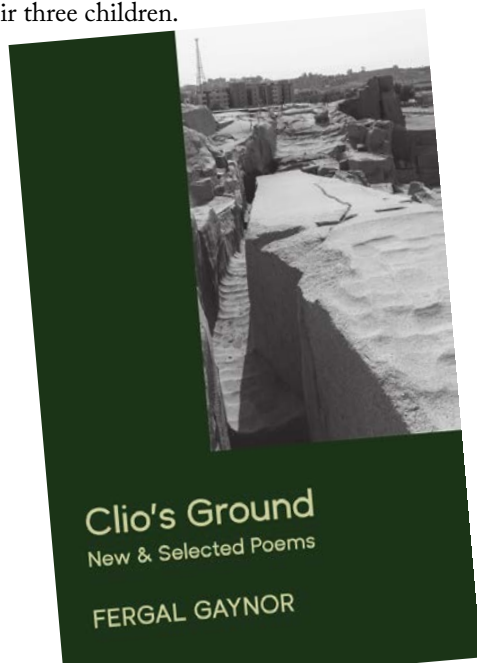
In a year where a debut collection does not win the overall Farmgate Café National Poetry Award, the highest scoring debut collection in the competition will be awarded the separate Southword Debut Poetry Collection Award. This award is for €1000.

## Reading & Discussion

### Fergal Gaynor (Ireland) & Kenneth Hickey (Ireland) Moderated by Patrick Holloway

Wednesday 14th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free

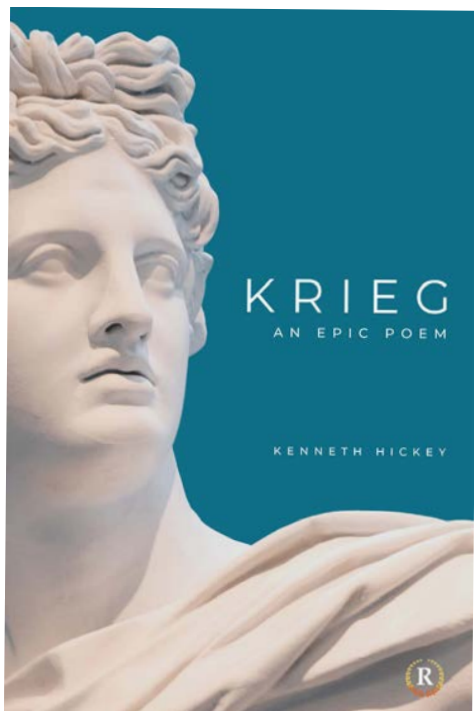
**Fergal Gaynor** (b. 1969) is a poet, art and literary critic, and was co-editor of the contemporary art magazine *Enclave Review* from 2010 to 2024. His poetry has appeared in *The Stinging Fly*, *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Irish University Review*, *Masthead*, among other magazines, and he has read his work at a variety of events and festivals, in Ireland, France, England, Wales, the US and the Czech Republic. His first collection appeared from Miami University Press in 2010, and his latest, *Clio's Ground*, is being published by Shearsman (Bristol) in 2025. He lives in Cork with his wife, the violinist Marja Gaynor, and their three children.



*“... lyric flights and philosophical excursions that have no evident precedent in Irish poetry. This is a poetry through which an Irish matter articulates with a rich European field of allusion and technique.”*

— David Lloyd

**Kenneth Hickey** was born in 1975 in Cobh, Co. Cork Ireland. His poetry and prose has been published in various literary journals in Ireland, the UK and the United States. He has been selected for the *Poetry in the Park* project and has been awarded a poetry mentorship by Munster Literature Centre. He was awarded a residency at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre by Cork County Council in 2022. He is currently associate editor with *The Belfast Review*. His debut collection *The Unicycle Paradox* was published by Revival Press in November 2021. His second Poetry book *Krieg* was published in 2024, also by Revival Press.



*“In this remarkable Cantata for the Dead, Kenneth Hickey ranges deep into the terrain of warriors and war, of suffering and heroism, slaughter and salvation ... A work for many voices, respectful, epic in its scope and in its ambition.”*  
— Theo Dorgan



## Reading & Discussion

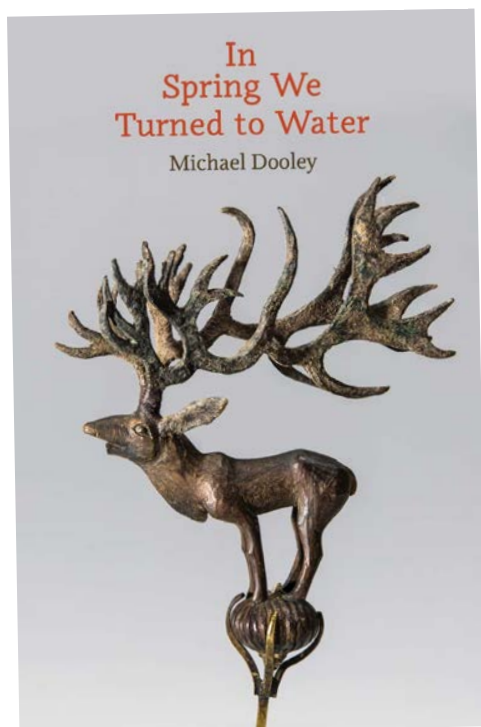
### Michael Dooley (Ireland) & Jennifer Horgan (Ireland) Moderated by Dean Browne

Wednesday 14th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



**Michael Dooley's** poems have appeared in *Banshee*, the *Irish Independent*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, and have been broadcast on RTÉ Radio One. His debut collection, *In Spring We Turned to Water*, is published by Doire Press.

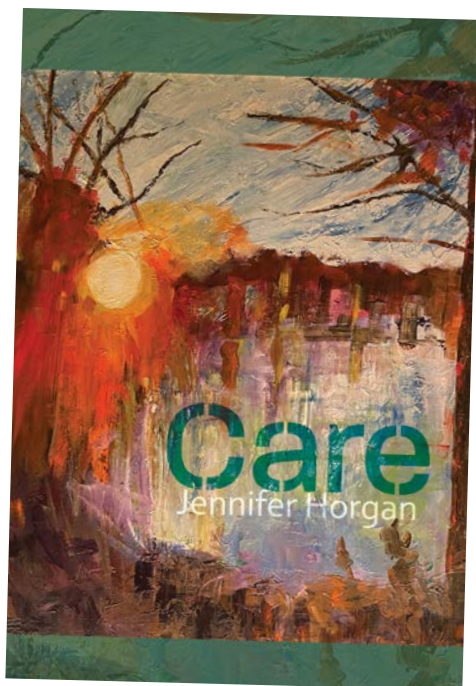
*"These poems are fiercely crafted, exquisitely lyrical, examinations from the charged landscape of historical aftermath, where faith is at once proximate and elusive, and the tribulations of the tribe echo in the 'muck and wet' of folk memory."*  
— Dean Browne







**Jennifer Horgan** is a Cork poet, teacher and columnist. Her work has appeared in *HOWL*, *New Irish Writing*, *Crannóg*, and *The Honest Ulsterman*. In 2023 she was awarded a mentorship with Thomas McCarthy through the Munster Literature Centre. Her debut collection *Care* is released in April 2025 with Doire Press.



*“Horgan’s voice is raw, intricate, uncompromising. She sees life and the world through a broken lens that splits the false light from the true and leaves us basking in – or hiding from – the brilliance of the colours we never saw before”*  
— William Wall

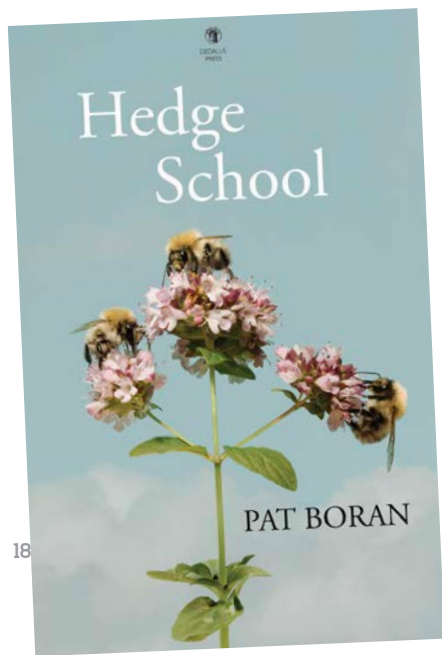
## Reading & Discussion

### Pat Boran (Ireland) & Rosemary Jenkinson (Northern Ireland) Moderated by Lauren O'Donovan

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



**Pat Boran** has published more than a dozen books of poetry and prose, among them *Hedge School* (2024), *Then Again* (2019) and *A Man Is Only As Good: A Pocket Selected Poems* (2017). Non-fiction includes the humorous memoir *The Invisible Prison: Scenes from an Irish Childhood* (2009) and the popular writers' handbook, *The Portable Creative Writing Workshop* (various editions). He has edited a dozen anthologies, presented poetry and arts programmes on radio, and his short poetry films have been screened at festivals in many countries. He is a member of Aosdána, the Irish affiliation of creative artists.



*“A Pat Boran poem may feel like sharing a pint as he draws you in with his engaging tone ... but don’t be fooled, for he flips in a trice into Joycean epiphanies and meditations on the human condition, poems resonating off one another in a complex web of associations.”*  
— Belinda Cooke

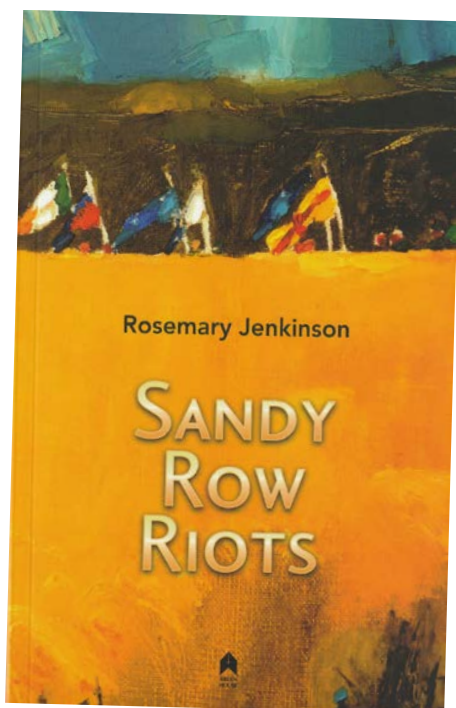
**Rosemary Jenkinson**

is a poet, playwright, short story writer and novelist from Belfast. Her debut poetry collection is *Sandy Row Riots*, published by Arlen House, and her poems have appeared in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *Acumen*

and the *Washing Windows* and *Romance Options* anthologies. Poet Damian Smyth recently wrote of *Sandy Row Riots*: 'A lyric temperament and political wit to be reckoned with'. Rosemary's latest short story collection is *Laganside Lights* and her debut novel is *The Memorisers*. She is an Arts Council of Northern Ireland Major Artist and currently is Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Queen's University.



*"What intimate energy  
Rosemary Jenkinson gusts out  
into these poems. Fabulous,  
essential poems, not just for  
today but for living with."*  
— Mary O'Donnell



## Reading & Discussion

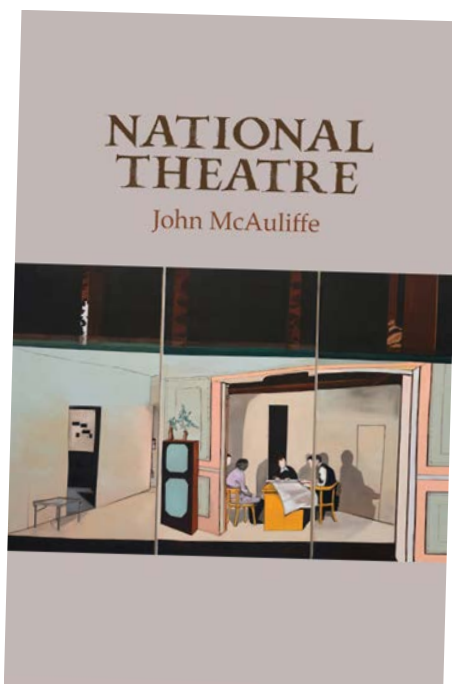
**John McAuliffe** (Ireland/UK)  
& **Thomas McCarthy** (Ireland)  
Moderated by **Lani O'Hanlon**

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

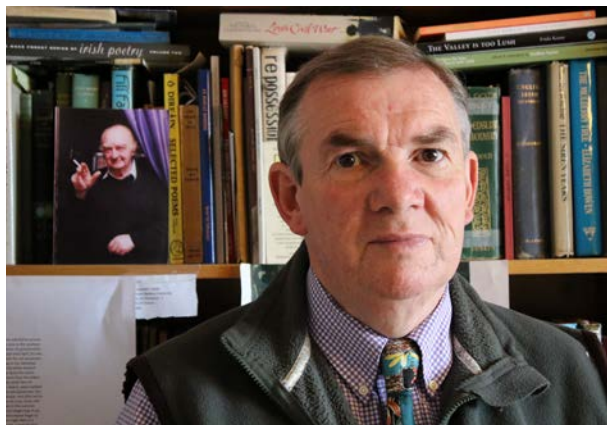


*“For all the amiable good humour of the voice of these poems, they never stray far from the things that really matter in modern life. The domain of the imagined is always at the service of the world we know, to cast light on it.”*  
— Bernard O'Donoghue

**John McAuliffe** has published seven books with The Gallery Press, most recently *National Theatre* (2024) and *Selected Poems* (2021), which was an *Observer* Book of the Year. He is Professor of Poetry at the University of Manchester. Previously poetry critic at *The Irish Times*, he is now Associate Publisher and editor at Carcanet and the journal *PN Review*.

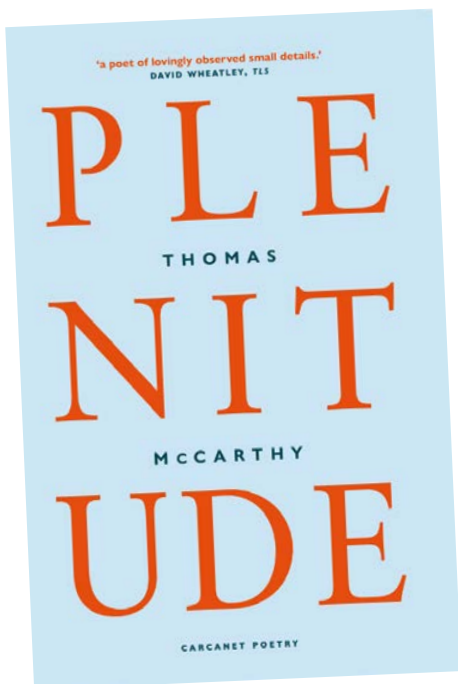






**Thomas McCarthy** was born in Co. Waterford in 1954 and educated at University College Cork. He worked for many years at Cork City Libraries. He has won many awards for his poetry, including The Patrick Kavanagh Award, the Alice Hunt Bartlett Prize, the O'Shaughnessy Prize and the Ireland Funds Annual Literary Award. *Prophecy* was published by Carcanet Press in 2019 and they will publish *Plenitude* in 2025. A former Editor of *Poetry Ireland Review* and

*The Cork Review*, his prose books, *Memory*, *Poetry and the Party: Journals 1974-2014*, and *Questioning Ireland* are published by The Gallery Press. He is a member of Aosdána.



*"McCarthy is writing out of a sense of history and community and memory ... There's a strangely affirmative note throughout the work, and a strong cosmopolitan sense; although deeply rooted in his own history, he roams widely: he can be both personal and political."*  
— Terry Eagleton

## Reading & Discussion

### Frank McGuinness (Ireland) & Maurice Riordan (Ireland/UK) Moderated by Dean Browne

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

PHOTOGRAPHER: DOMINIC MARTELLA

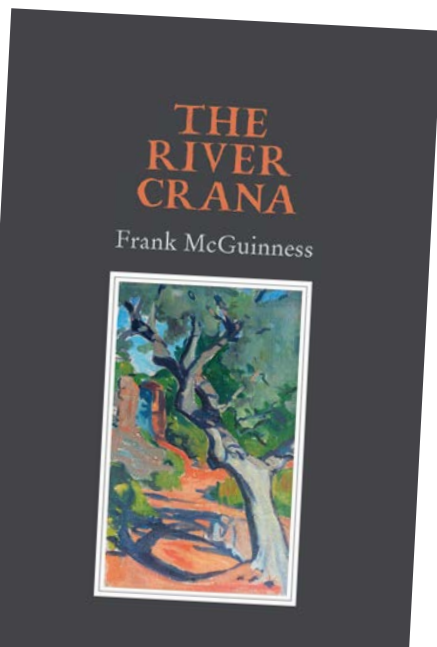


From Buncrana, Donegal, **Frank McGuinness** worked at the New University of Ulster, Maynooth College and University College Dublin. His plays and versions of European Classical Theatre, published by Faber, have been performed widely and received many awards. O'Brien Press/Bandon

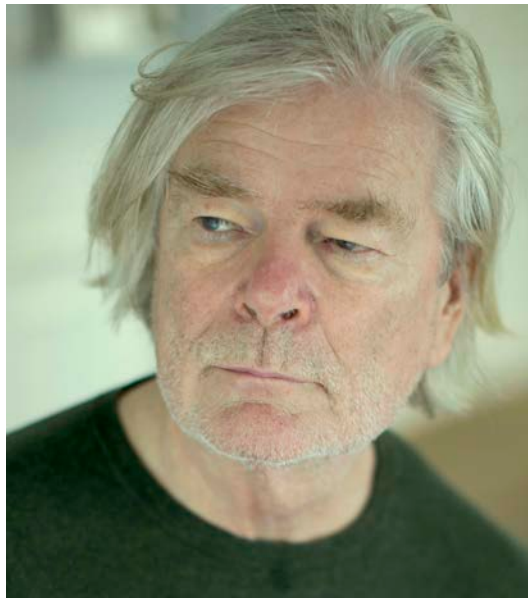
published his novels, *Arimathea* and *The Woodcutter And His Family*, and his collection of short stories, *Paprika*. He has published eight volumes of poetry with The Gallery Press, the most recent being *May Twenty-Second* and *The River Crana*. He is a member of Aosdána.

*“As a dramatist, he’s up there with Friel. As a poet, he fits with Montague and Hewitt, with perhaps a spicing of Longley. He can be lyrical and strident. He is steeped in his home place, its lore and memory.”*

— Books Ireland



PHOTOGRAPHER: URSULA SOLTYS



**Maurice Riordan** was born in Lisgoold, County Cork. His *Selected Poems*, chosen by Jack Underwood, is published by Faber. He edited *The Finest Music* (Faber, 2014), an anthology of early Irish poetry in translation, and *A Quark for Mister Mark: 101 Poems about Science* (Faber, 2000). He has received the Michael Hartnett Award, a Cholmondeley Award and the PEN Translation Prize. He is former editor of *The Poetry Review*. Riordan taught at Imperial College and Goldsmiths College and is Emeritus Professor of Poetry at Sheffield Hallam University. He lives in London, where he teaches at the Faber Academy.

*“Riordan is an exceptionally accomplished herdsman of words, corralling the unexpected into a single field and stoically soaring above his own doubts.”*

— Kate Kellaway

# Maurice Riordan Selected Poems

chosen by Jack Underwood

## Reading & Discussion

### Maurice Devitt (Ireland) & Thomas Dillon Redshaw (USA) Moderated by David McLoghlin

Thursday 15th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free

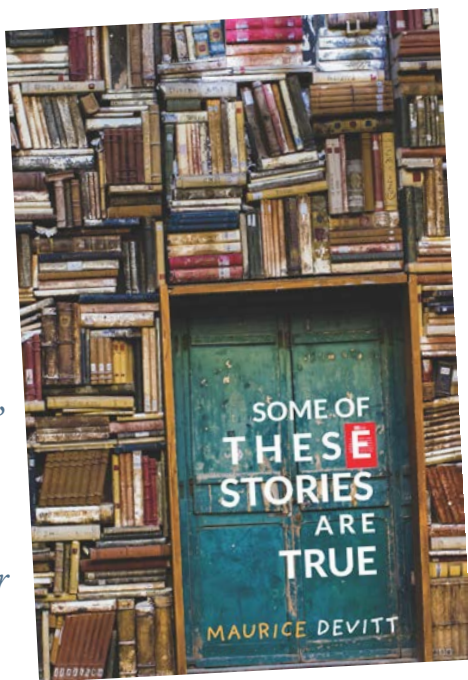
Born in Dublin, **Maurice Devitt** completed an MA in Poetry Studies at Mater Dei following a 30-year career in insurance and banking. His debut collection *Growing Up in Colour* was published by Doire Press in 2018, and his second collection *Some of These Stories are True* came out in May 2023. Maurice is the chairperson of The Hibernian Writers' Group, and his Pushcart-nominated poem, 'The Lion Tamer

Dreams of Office Work', was the title poem of an anthology of the group's work published by Alba Publishing in 2015. He is curator of the Irish Centre for Poetry Studies Facebook page where he posts featured poems, news and poetry articles daily.



*"Some of These Stories are True contains many worlds, including a rich inner world, the world of work, the world of innocence, childhood and the past ... often philosophical, sometimes playful – the narrative voice offers us a view of the familiar and everyday in a new light."*

— Jean O'Brien





**Thomas Dillon Redshaw**

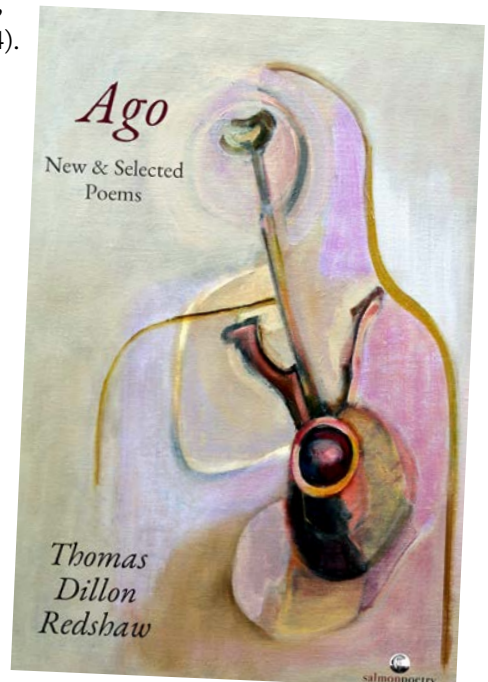
is the founding editor of *New Hibernia Review* (1996—2006) and the former editor of *Eire-Ireland* (1974—1995). He is the author of numerous essays on the poetry of John Montague, and on the poetry of Brian Coffey, John F.

Deane, James Liddy, Thomas McCarthy, and George Reavey. He has published extensively on Liam Miller's Dolmen Press, as well as on The Gallery Press. His most recent collections are *Ago: New and Selected Poems* (Salmon Poetry, 2024) and *Heart Walk* (Brighthorse Books, 2024).



*“Ago pays homage to those in life who have been ‘caught’ in mortality’s net. With the luster and simplicity of a fine glaze on a porcelain bowl, these poems capture luminous moments from an ongoing darkness that ‘we will travel into but not return from.’”*

— Leslie Miller



## Reading & Discussion

### Alvy Carragher (Ireland) & Keith Payne (Ireland/Spain) Moderated by Afric McGlinchey

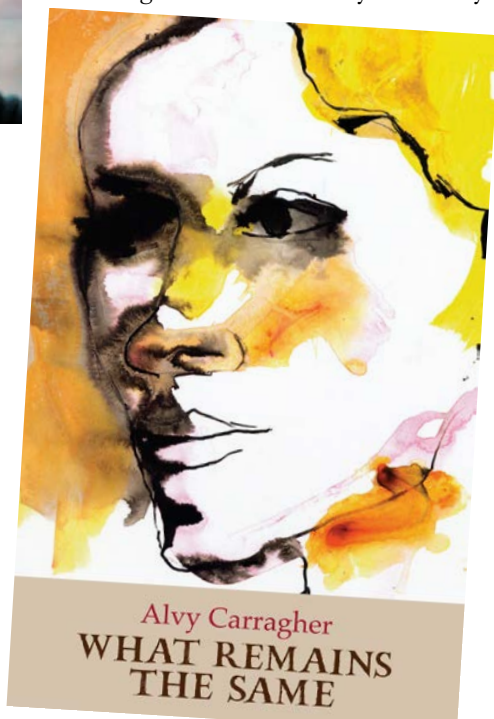
Thursday 15th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free

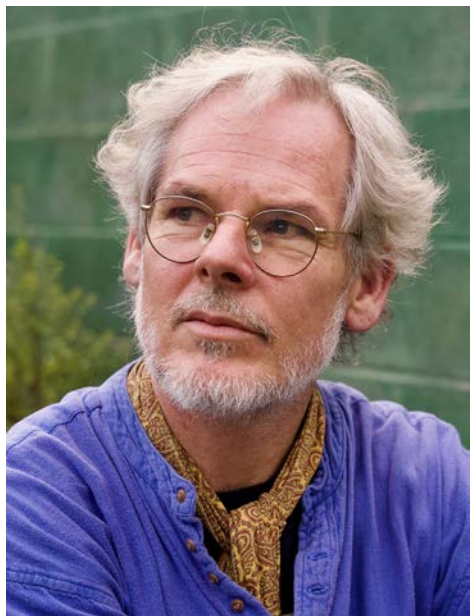


*"A skilful and sensitive poet who possesses a high degree of psychological insight and tact, and her portrayal of the emotional undercurrents between people is at the same time forceful and subtle."*

— Eva Bourke

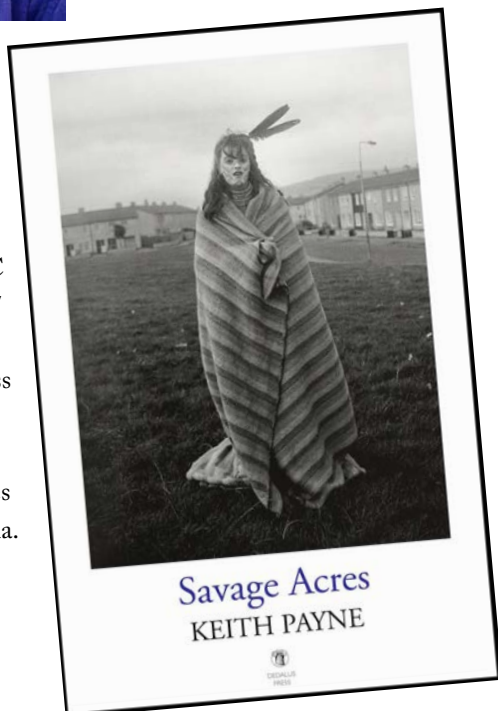
**Alvy Carragher** grew up by the River Shannon in Galway and Tipperary and has since lived in Louisiana, Dublin, South Korea, and Canada. She is currently based in Dublin. Her previous collections, *Falling in love with broken things* (2016) and *The men I keep under my bed* (2021), were published by Salmon Poetry. *What Remains the Same* was published by The Gallery Press in 2024. She is a recipient of an Arts Council Literary Bursary and has an MA in Writing from the University of Galway.





*“Savage Acres is a terrain, a place of flow, where everyday things lead to unexpected moments of the sublime. Every page contains brilliance and life.”*  
— Adrian Duncan

**Keith Payne** is the author of ten collections of poetry in translation and original poetry, most recently *Savage Acres* (Dedalus Press, April 2025). *Building the Boat* (Badly Made Books), was featured on BBC Radio 3’s The Essay and *Whales and Whales*, from the Galician of Luisa Castro, was published by Skein Press in April 2024. He is curator of the Aodh Ruadh Ó Domhnaill Poetry Exchange Ireland/Galicia and shares his time between Ireland and Galicia.



## Reading & Discussion

**Susannah Dickey** (Northern Ireland)

**& Jaki McCarrick** (Ireland)

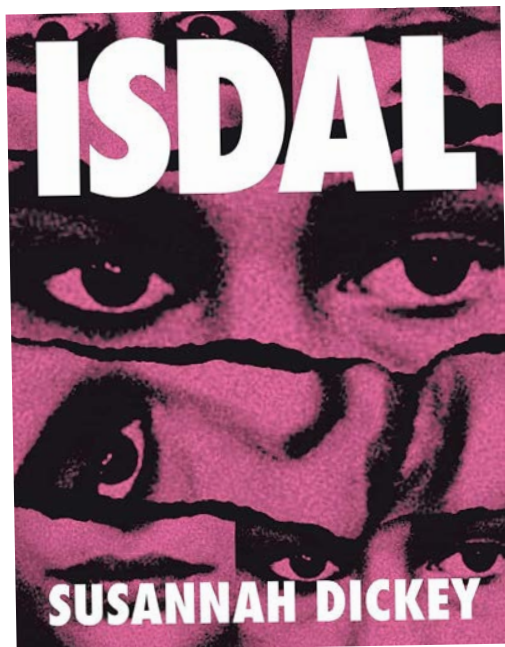
Moderated by **Róisín Leggett Bohan**

Thursday 15th 7.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



**Susannah Dickey** is a writer from Derry. She is the author of two novels, *Tennis Lessons* (2020) and *Common Decency* (2022), both published by Doubleday UK and Penguin Ireland. Her debut poetry collection, *ISDAL*, was published in 2023 by Picador and was the winner of the PEN Heaney Prize, was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and the John Pollard Prize, and was an *Irish Times* and *Guardian* Book of the Year. Her third novel, *To Pieces*, will be published by Bloomsbury in spring 2026.

*“A body of work that raises important questions and makes you question yourself and everything you have been told. Surreal, thoughtful, and surprisingly playful.”*  
— Belfast Telegraph

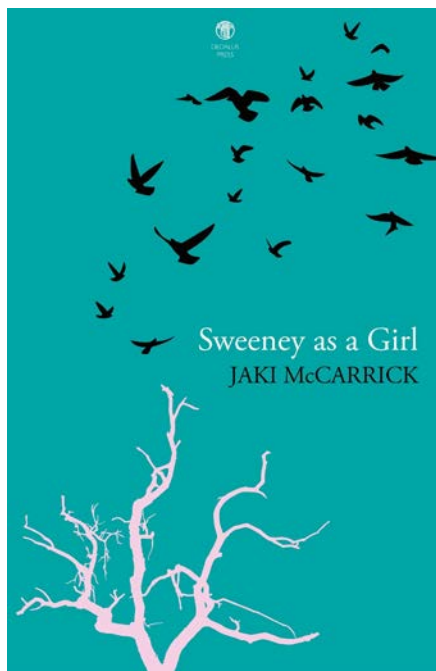






*Throughout, the various roles of daughter, writer, friend, lover and neighbour are interrogated, with more than once a voice (from mythology or history or the world of art) delivering a surprising new perspective on what we thought we knew or took for granted.*

Winner of the Papatango Prize for New Writing for her play *Leopoldville*, **Jaki McCarrick**'s play *Belfast Girls* was developed at the National Theatre Studio, London and has been staged many times internationally, premiering in New York in 2022 at the Irish Repertory Theatre. Jaki's short story collection *The Scattering* was shortlisted for the 2014 Edge Hill Prize and includes the Wasafiri Prize-winning story, 'The Visit'. She was Writer in Residence at the Centre Cultural Irlandais in Paris (2013), and at the University of Leuven, Belgium (2022). Her debut poetry collection, *Sweeney as a Girl* (April 2025) is from Dedalus Press. She is currently writing a new play.



## Reading & Discussion

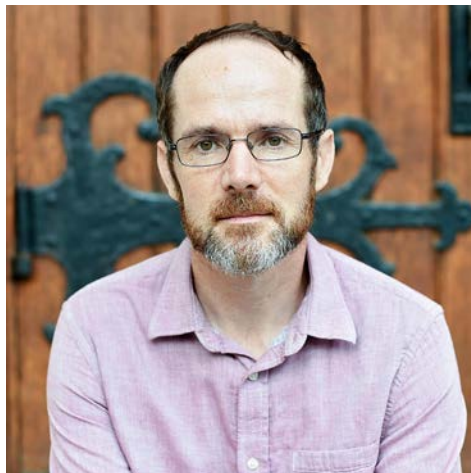
### Ciaran Berry (Ireland/USA) & James Harpur (Ireland/UK) Moderated by David McLoghlin

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

**Ciaran Berry**'s newest collection is *States*, which will be published by The Gallery Press in May, 2025. His earlier books are *Liner Notes* (2018), *The Dead Zoo* (2013), which was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, and *The Sphere of Birds* (2008), winner of the Crab Orchard Series in Poetry Open Competition, a Whiting Award, the Jerwood Aldeburgh First Collection Prize, and the Michael Murphy Memorial Prize. He grew up in Carna, Co. Galway and Falcarragh, Co. Donegal and currently lives in Hartford, Connecticut where he teaches in the English Department at Trinity College.

*"He can enter imaginatively into the life of a hive of bees or the death of a rogue elephant, and he holds the door open for the reader. Memorable as these poems are, it is not enough to have read them – you want to be reading them, back in the world of this poet's voice."*

— Helen Dunmore



## LINER NOTES

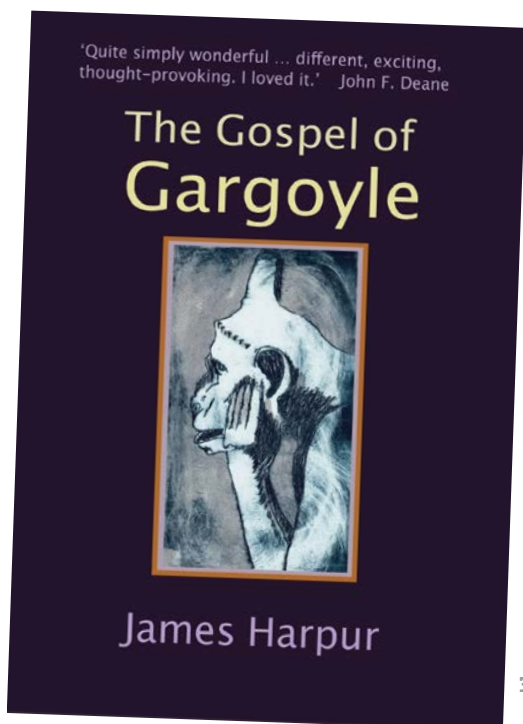
Ciaran Berry



**James Harpur's** latest book is *The Gospel of Gargoyle* (Eblana Press): a poet residing in Paris has a series of dreams in which he flies to the rooftop of Notre-Dame and meets a gargoyle. But not any old gargoyle: this one can speak, and Gargoyle and Poet become unlikely companions, bound by a pact: in return for the poet's conversations and poems on the great questions of life, Gargoyle promises to reveal the answer to the question obsessing Poet: who or what caused the great fire of Notre-Dame in 2019. James Harpur has published nine books of poems and won a number of prizes, including the UK National Poetry Competition and the Michael Hartnett Prize. He is a member of Aosdána and lives in West Cork.

*"The Gospel of Gargoyle is a mighty dialogue of self and soul, a drama, a small epic ... The ending is a little electric shock."*

— Penelope Buckley



## Reading & Discussion

### Jane Clarke (Ireland) & Pádraig Ó Tuama (Ireland) Moderated by Liz Quirke

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

**Jane Clarke** is the author of three poetry collections, *The River* (2015), *When the Tree Falls* (2019) and *A Change in the Air* (2023) published by Bloodaxe Books. She edited the illustrated anthology *Windfall: Irish Nature Poems to Inspire and Connect* (Hachette Books

Ireland, 2023). She received an Arts Council of Ireland Literature Bursary Award in 2024 for the completion of her fourth collection. Her most recent collection, *A Change in the Air*, was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection 2023 and the T.S. Eliot Prize 2023.

*“The poems that make up A Change in the Air manage to crystallise entire galaxies of feeling into short lyrics, even within singular lines, as if each word has been weighed by hand for value.”*

32 — Emily Driver

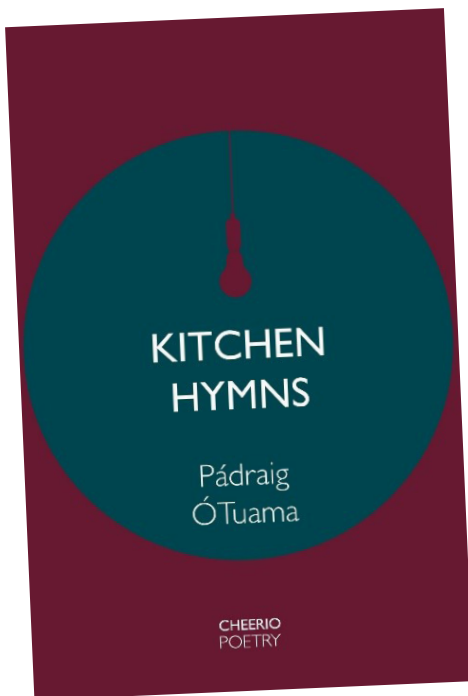






**Pádraig Ó Tuama** is an internationally recognised poet, podcaster, and the best-selling anthologist of *Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World* (Canongate, 2022). His most recent collection is *Kitchen Hymns* (CHEERIO Publishing) and previous collections include *In the Shelter*, *Sorry for Your Troubles*, and *Feed the Beasts*, whose meditations on identity, sexuality, religion, and Irishness have propelled him to widespread acclaim in circles of poetry, politics, religion, conflict resolution, and psychotherapy. Having worked in conflict resolution for many years, he now presents the podcast Poetry Unbound with On Being Studios, which has amassed over sixteen million downloads since its launch in 2020. He splits his time between Belfast and New York City.

*“There is an open-hearted, open-handed quality to these poems. An unembarrassed grappling with the big questions; with awe, with doubt, with religiosity in the truest and broadest sense of that word – a consideration of that which binds, of that which restores the part to the whole.”*  
— Keiran Goddard



## Reading

# Prebooked Poetry Introductions Moderated by James O'Leary

Friday 16th 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.

The line-up of chosen poets will be available at [www.corkpoetryfest.net](http://www.corkpoetryfest.net).

# SOUTHWORD

NEW INTERNATIONAL WRITING



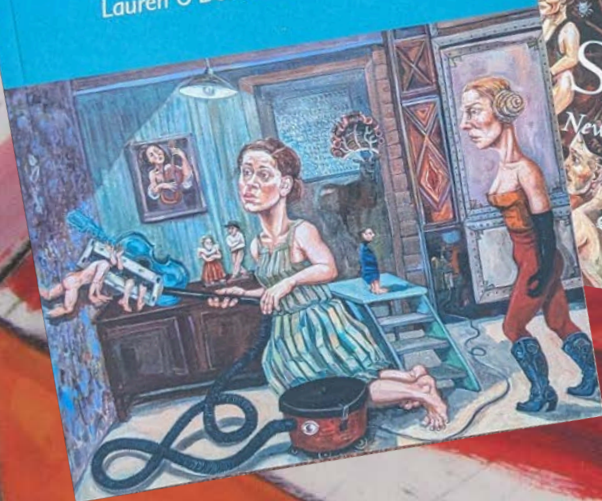
[munsterlit.ie/southword](http://munsterlit.ie/southword)

Subscribe for €24 per year (free postage)

## Southword 46

New International Writing

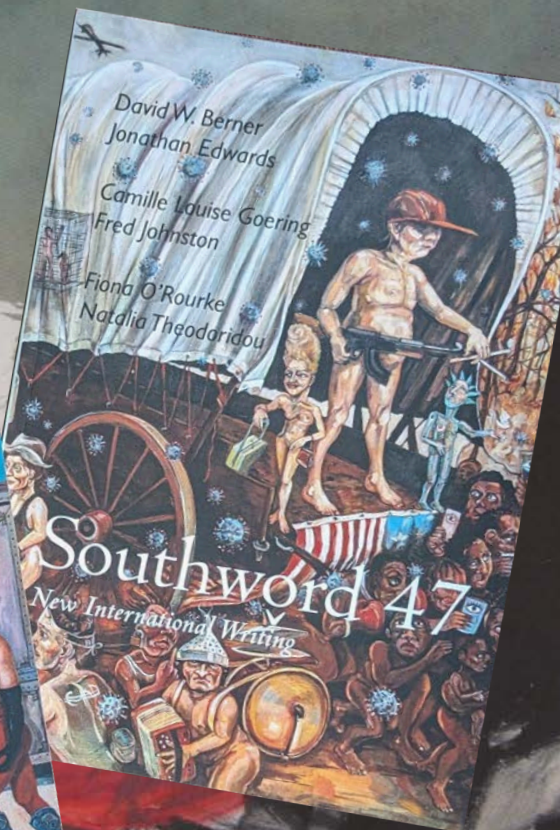
Simon Costello    Katie Griffiths  
Tom Harvey  
Lauren O'Donovan    Louise Watts



## Southword 47

New International Writing

David W. Berner  
Jonathan Edwards  
Camille Louise Goering  
Fred Johnston  
Fiona O'Rourke  
Natalia Theodoridou

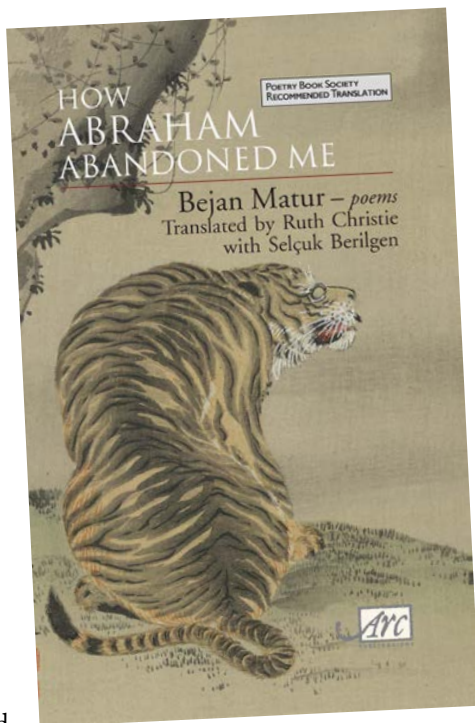




## Reading & Discussion

### Bejan Matur (Turkey) & Tuğçe Tekhanlı (Cyprus) Moderated by Keith Payne

Friday 16th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission Free



**Bejan Matur** was born in the ancient Hittite city of Maraş, in 1968. Her poems have been translated into 44 languages and have received numerous awards. She has published 11 books, 9 of which are poetry. Her music-accompanied poetry has been presented to wide audiences on prestigious stages such as the Royal Opera House, Kings Place and Princeton University. In 2012, her book *How Abraham Abandoned Me* (Arc, 2012) became the 'Recommended Translation for Spring 2012' by the Poetry Book Society founded by T.S. Eliot. Bejan Matur is a graduate of the Ankara University Faculty of Law, and currently lives between Berlin and Istanbul.

*"Its verbs have no tense, its prepositions are like nouns, its own nouns are cries. The reader does not follow word by word, but hand in hand, to touch and recognise piece after piece in the dark."*  
— John Berger

PHOTOGRAPHER: KEMAL BAYKALLI



*“Through poetry, she embodies the resistance of memory against forgetting ... In this realm, there are rivers that know no boundaries and flow unhindered; there are centuries-old olive trees, rooted deep into the soil and standing firmly in their place.”*

— Ahmet Yıkık

**Tuğçe Tekhanlı** was born in 1990 in Nicosia, Cyprus. She is an award-winning poet, translator, and dancer. She writes in Turkish and English. She earned her BA (Translation and Interpreting) from Hacettepe University. She completed an MA in Creative Writing at Dublin City University in 2022 and received first-class honours. She has two poetry collections, her latest *Dalgalara İsim Verdik (We Named the Waves)* in 2023. Her poems are featured in many international literary magazines and anthologies including *Abridged*, *Cyphers*, *Skylight47*, and *The Seventh Quarry*. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Contemporary Dance at ARUCAD University. Adopting a multidisciplinary approach to art, she creates contemporary dance performances inspired by her poetry.



## Reading & Discussion

# Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill (Ireland) Moderated by Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh (Bilingual Event)

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



**Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill** is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest poets in Ireland, also reputed for her dedication and defense of the Irish language. Ní Dhomhnaill has published extensively, and her works include poetry collections, children's plays, screenplays, anthologies, articles, reviews and essays. In her writings, Ní Dhomhnaill focuses on the rich traditions and heritage of Ireland and draws upon themes of ancient Irish folklore and mythology that intermingle with contemporary issues concerning femininity, sexuality and culture. In 2018, she received the Zbigniew Herbert International Literary Award for her achievements in poetry. Her most recent book is *Feis & Cead Aighnis* (Cló Iar-Chonnacht).

*“Ní Dhomhnaill can weave together comedy and darkness, confrontation with casual chat. Her poems can be reflective lyrics or sprawling narratives, incantory or wisecracking.”*

— Lavinia Greenlaw





# Fool for Poetry International Chapbook Competition



Superposition  
Drought /  
Diagnosis  
Ghost  
Sojourn  
Levis  
Corner  
House  
War  
Food  
What  
it Costs

Page limit: 16 – 24  
Entry fee: €25 per manuscript

1st Prize: €1000  
2nd Prize: €500

Both prizes include chapbook publication  
including 25 copies and a featured reading at  
the Cork International Poetry Festival (with  
three-night hotel stay and full board)

Deadline: 31st August 2025  
Guidelines: [www.munsterlit.ie](http://www.munsterlit.ie)

Corona  
Cork  
&  
Halle  
Earth's  
Black  
If All This  
Never  
Happened  
Losing  
the Farm  
Parturition  
Satyress

Jamie O'Halloran  
Cian Ferriter  
Vicky Morris  
Felicity Sheehy  
Heather Treseler  
JOHN MEE

Banquet in the Hall  
of  
Business  
Nothing Here Is Wild,  
Everything Is Open  
THE CURATIVE HAIR  
WHITE WHALE  
DONG DATING DJS  
Never Trust Where a Cat Sits

Virginité  
Viennese Kismet

## Reading & Discussion

### Leeanne Quinn (Ireland) & Richard Scott (UK) Moderated by Pádraig Ó Tuama

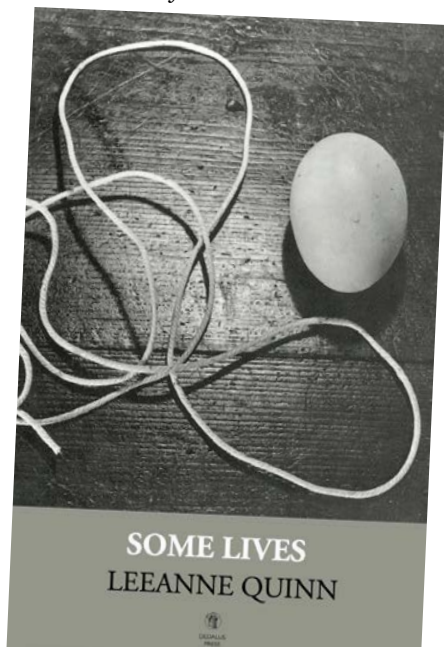
Friday 16th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



**Leeanne Quinn's** debut collection of poetry, *Before You* (2012), was highly commended in the Forward Prize for Poetry 2013. Her second collection, *Some Lives* (2020), was noted as a Book of the Year by *The Irish Times* and the *Irish Independent*. Her poems have been widely anthologised, appearing in *The Forward Book of Poetry* 2013, *Windharp: Poems of Ireland Since 1916*, *Hold Open the Door: A Commemorative Anthology from The Ireland Chair of Poetry*, and *Queering The Green: Post-2000 Queer Irish Poetry*. With Joseph Woods, she co-edited *Romance Options: Love Poems for Today* (2022) and, most recently, edited *Beginnings Over and Over: Four New Poets from Ireland* (2025).

*"...poems that are challenging, allusive and engagingly mysterious. The heroic lives of others, artist Nano Reid's paintings, an elegy for her sister and Quinn's own life in Munich are brought before us in vivid, sensuous poems."*

— Niall MacMonagle





**Richard Scott** was born in London in 1981. His first book *Soho* (Faber & Faber, 2018), was a Gay's the Word book of the year and was shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot prize. His second poetry collection, *That Broke into Shining Crystals*, is from Faber & Faber (February 2025). He is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His poetry has been translated into German and French. He teaches poetry at the Faber Academy and Goldsmiths, University of London.



# Richard Scott That Broke into Shining Crystals

*"Scott's project is as political as it is personal, and the kaleidoscopic picture of contemporary queerness he builds through these poems is as surgent as it is alluring ... Dark, joyous and as fierce as a love-bite."*  
— A. K. Blakemore

## Reading & Discussion

### Nick Makoha (Uganda/UK) & Nisrine Mbarki (the Netherlands) Moderated by Kemi George Simpson

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

**Dr Nick Makoha** is a Ugandan poet. His new collection is *The New Carthaginians* published by Penguin UK. Winner of the 2021 Ivan Juritz Prize and the Poetry London Prize. In 2017, Nick's debut collection, *Kingdom of Gravity*, was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection and was one of the *The Guardian's* best books of the year. His poems have appeared in the *Cambridge Review*, *The New York Times*, *Poetry Review*, *Poetry Wales*, *Rialto*, *Poetry London*, *TriQuarterly Review*, *5 Dials*, *Boston Review*, *Callaloo Birmingham Lit Journal* and *Wasafiri*. He is a Trustee for the Arvon Foundation and a member of the Malika's Poetry Kitchen collective.



*“In this book, Nick Makoha has found an otherworldly, visionary voice and diction that arrest you from the first page and never let you go.”*  
— Jason Allen-Paisant



**Nisrine Mbarki** (she/her), is an Amsterdam based multilingual versatile poet, feminist, writer, curator and literary translator. Her literary work covers different genres like poetry, short stories and theatre. As a literary translator she translates mainly poetry from Arabic and English into Dutch. As a curator she works for different international literary festivals and is a member of several literary juries and boards in the Netherlands. In January 2022 she published her poetry debut *oeverloos* (*shoreless*) for which she was nominated for the C.Buddingh prize, a prize for the best Dutch debut of the year and for the Herman De Koninckprijs, a prize for the best Belgian and Dutch poetry collection of the year.



*“Mooi en helder van taal en internationaal gericht als een veelkleurige diamant.”*

*“Beautiful and clear in language and internationally oriented like a multi-coloured diamond.”*

— Brabant Cultureel

## Award Presentations

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

Saturday 17th 3.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

The winning chapbooks of the Fool for Poetry International Chapbook Competition, *Superposition* by Lauren O'Donovan and *Drought / Diagnosis* by Lisa Katz Duncan, will be unveiled with readings. The winning poem of the Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition, 'Dancing with Thierry Thieu Niang' by Lani O'Hanlon will be read along with a selection of other poems.

## Fool for Poetry Competition 1st Prize



**Lauren O'Donovan** has won the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award, the Cúirt New Writing Prize, and the Southword Subscriber's Poetry Prize. She is co-founder of *HOWL New Irish Writing* and Lime Square Poets, and is a grateful recipient of funding from Cork County Council and the Arts Council. Lauren is an Irish writer and graduate of UCC. She lives in County Cork with her family.

## Fool for Poetry Competition 2nd Prize



**Lisa Katz Duncan** is the author of *Given* (Autumn House Press, 2023), which received the Autumn House Press Rising Writer Award and the Laurel Prize for Best International First Collection. Her poems have appeared in *AGNI*, *The Common*, *The Kenyon Review*, *Poem-a-Day*, *Poetry*, *Poetry Daily*, and elsewhere. A 2024-25 Climate Resiliency Fellow, she lives in New Jersey (Lenni-Lenape), USA, where she teaches multilingual learners.

## Gregory O'Donoghue Competition 1st Prize

**Lani O'Hanlon** is a dance artist, somatic movement therapist and writer living in a renovated cottage beside the sea in County Waterford. Her poetry collection *Landscape of the Body* was published in 2023 by the Dedalus Press. Her poetry is widely published and broadcast on RTÉ's *Sunday Miscellany*. She was the winner of the Poetry Ireland Trocaire Award in 2022 and other prizes include The Bridport Prize, Poetry on the Lake and the Hennessey New Irish Writing.





## Spléachadh Irise

# Spléachadh ar Aneas

## Á chur i láthair ag Simon Ó Faoláin

Dé Sathairn 17ú 4.30i.n. **Cork Arts Theatre** |Ticéad €5

Iris 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.

# ANEAS

Belles Lettres as Gaeilge

GRIANGHRAFADÓIR: CLARE KEOGH



Is file dátheangach í **Julie Goo**, ag foilsiú agus ag aithris dánta ar stáitsí ar fud na tíre agus thar sáile. D'fhoilsigh Cosicéim a céad cnuasach dar teideal *DÁNA* i 2021. Is ball í don chomharghrúpa ealaíne *Aerach Aiteach Gaelach*, agus leath an ghrúpa hip hop dátheangach *shelovescaipol* le DJ Milis.

I mBéal Átha Fhínín in Iarthar Chorcaí a saolaíodh **Pádraig Mac Fhearghusa**, ach ón nGarastún i bhFear Manach agus Gleann Beithe i gCiarraí dá mhuintir. Tréimhsí caite aige mar mhúinteoir, aistritheoir, iriseoir, agus mar eagarthóir ar an míosachán liteartha Feasta. I measc na leabhar uaidh tá *Tórafocht an Mhíshonais*, méar ar eolas ar Freud agus Jung. D'fhoilsigh LeabhairComhar *Iarmhairt*, rogha dánta leis, in 2023.







Scríobhann **Joanne Nic Cárthaigh** i bPort Láirge. Tá a saothar le léamh i bhfoilsíocháin agus cnuasaigh éagsúla. Bhuaigh sí comórtas An Fhéich Dhuibh sa bhliain 2023. Ghlac sí páirt sa chlár Céadlínite Éigse Éireann sa bhliain 2024 agus bhronn An Chomhairle Ealaíon Sparánacht Litríochta uirthi sa bhliain chéanna. Is comheagarthóir í ar an iris *The Waxed Lemon*.

PHOTOGRAPHER: DANNI RONAN

Is file, scríbhneoir, aisteoir, feadógaí, pianódóir, amhránaí ar an sean-nós agus rinneoir seite í **Gormfhlaith Ní Shíocháin Ní Bheoláin**. Tá mórán duaiseanna bainte ag a cuid scríbhneoireachta agus ceoil, agus tá a saothar le léamh i bhfoilsíocháin éagsúla, ina measc sna hirísí *Feasta*, in *Comhar*, in *Aneas*, in *Poetry Ireland Review*, sa *The Stinging Fly* agus sa *Ghairdín*.



Is athair, múinteoir, agus file ó Chathair Luimnigh é **Tomás Ó Coileáin**. Foilsíodh a chéad chnuasach dátheangach, "*Ar An Leoithne*", i mí Aibreáin 2024. Foilsíodh dánta i mBéarla agus i nGaeilge aige in *Stony Thursday*, *Ogham Stone*, *Comhar*, *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad*, *HOWL New Irish Writing*, *The Waxed Lemon*, agus *Aneas*. Eisean eagarthóir filíochta Revival Press. Bhuaigh sé an Comórtas Filíochta ag Féile Raifteirí, Baile Locha Riach, in 2024.

Is dramadóir agus file í **Róisín Sheehy**. D'fhoilsigh Coiscéim a cnuasach filíochta *Líomóidí's Rúbarb* agus d'fhoilsigh Leabhair Comhar a cead dráma *Snámh na Saoirse*. Ghnóthaigh *Snámh na Saoirse* Gradam Gaeilge Stewart Parker BBC Thuaisceart Éireann agus ghnóthaigh a dán *Fileann Fianna* agus a dráma *Bean ar Charraig* duaiseanna Oireachtais. Is as Gaeltacht Chorca Dhuibhne di ach tá sé curtha fuithi i gCill Chainnigh.



## Reading & Discussion

### Fiona Benson (UK) & Traci Brimhall (USA) Moderated by Lani O'Hanlon

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

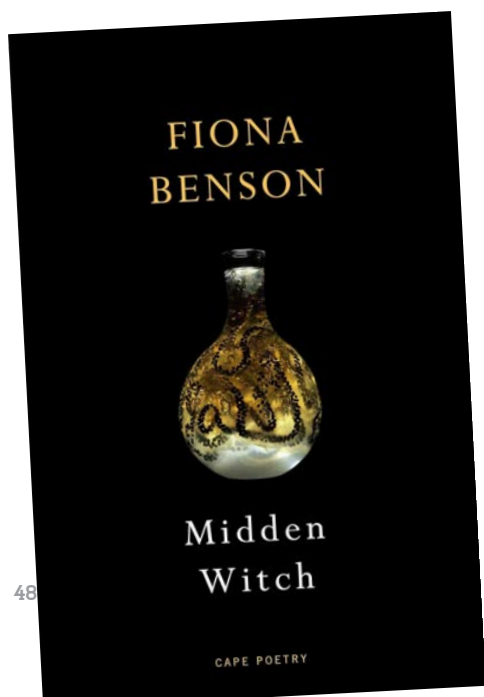


PHOTOGRAPHER: JESSICA FARMER

**Fiona Benson** lives in Devon with her husband and their two daughters. Her latest collection is *Midden Witch*. She has published three previous collections of poetry, all of which were shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize: *Bright Travellers*, which won the 2015 Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and

the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry's Prize for First Full Collection, *Vertigo & Ghost*, which was shortlisted for the 2019 Rathbones Folio Prize and won both the Roehampton Poetry Prize and the Forward Prize for Best Collection, and *Ephemeron*, which was shortlisted for the Rathbones Folio Prize and the London Hellenic Prize.

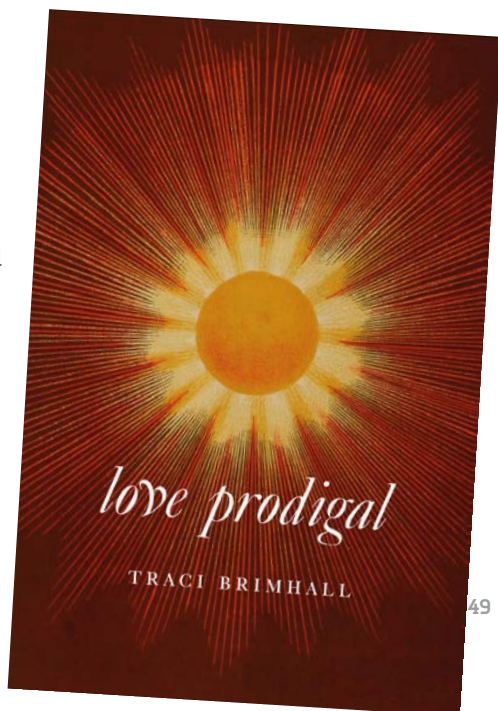
*"Benson upends classical—and modern—mythology and in so doing demands that we face the myths and lies we allow in our own times ... [she] leans into the dreads of our world, a poet of Cassandran ferocity."*  
— Mandana Chaffa





**Traci Brimhall** is a professor of creative writing and narrative medicine at Kansas State University. She is the author of five collections of poetry, including *Love Prodigal* (published November 2024 by Copper Canyon). Her poems have appeared in publications such as *The New Yorker*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and *Best American Poetry*. She's received fellowships from National Endowment for the Arts, the National Parks Service, the Academy of American Poets, and Purdue Archives and Special Collections to study the lost poem drafts of Amelia Earhart. She's the current poet laureate for the State of Kansas.

*"...tight, dynamic, and inventive. Brimhall proves that in disillusionment there is also great imagination, a half-lost world that awakens our perceptions to our current one."*  
— Maya C. Popa



## Reading & Discussion

### Romalyn Ante (Philippines/UK) & Mary O'Malley (Ireland) Moderated by Róisín Leggett Bohan

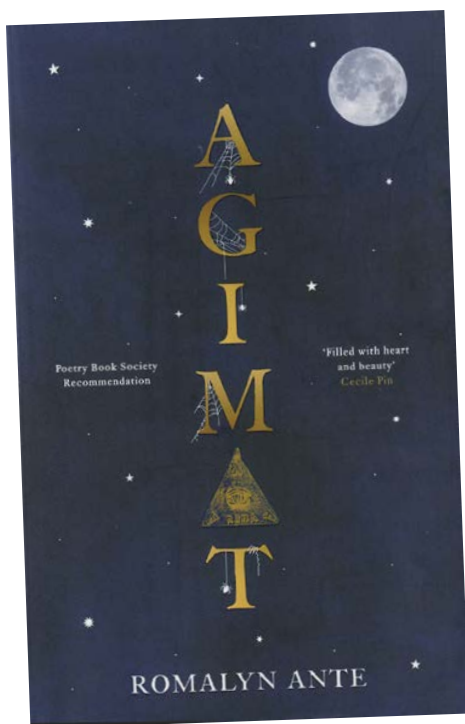
Saturday 17th 8.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



**Romalyn Ante** FRSL is a Filipino-British poet, essayist, and editor. Her debut collection, *Antiemetic for Homesickness* (Chatto, 2020), was shortlisted for the Jhalak Prize and longlisted for the Dylan Thomas Prize. Her Second collection, *AGIMAT*, is a Poetry Book Society Recommendation. She is the co-founding editor of *harana poetry*, a magazine for poets who write in English as a second or parallel language. She sits on the editorial board for *Poetry London* magazine, and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. She lives in the West Midlands where she works as a registered NHS nurse and psychotherapist.

*“Ante is an alchemical wonder of a poet: unparalleled in her image-making, raw to both historical and contemporary damage and rich in cultures. Utterly original, AGIMAT is itself a talisman – a fiery binding of pain and a message of love to the wounded and lost.”*

— Fiona Benson



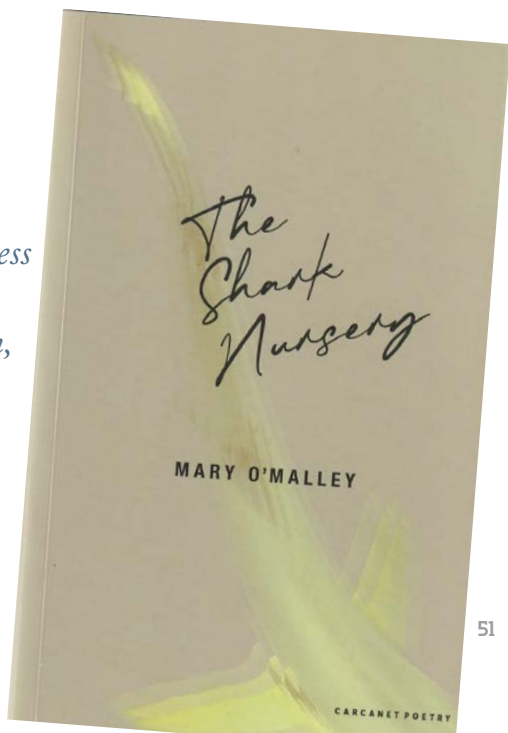




**Mary O'Malley** was born in Connemara in Ireland and educated at University College Galway. She served on the council of Poetry Ireland and was on the Committee of the Cúirt International Poetry Festival for eight years. She was the author of its educational programme. She is a member of Aosdána and has won a number of awards for her poetry, including the 2016 Arts Council University of Limerick Writer's Fellowship and the 2018 Michael Hartnett Poetry Award for *Playing the Octopus* (2016). Her most recent collection is *The Shark Nursery* (Carcamet). She was the Trinity Writer Fellow at the Oscar Wilde Centre for 2019.

*"We go to Mary O'Malley for: truthfulness, seriousness, playfulness too, and then a particular sort of hesitating and hard-won wisdom, a pushback against nonsense or sentiment or fakery, the beauty of plain words placed in careful order, carefully – and always, the bliss of musicality."*

— Joseph O'Connor



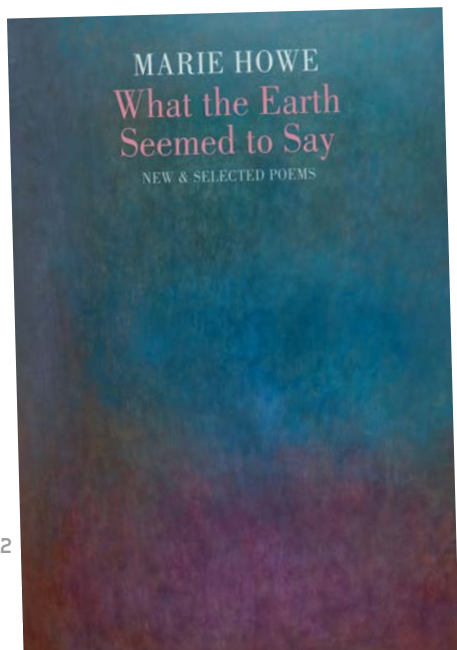
## Reading & Discussion

### Marie Howe (USA) & Krisztina Tóth (Hungary) Moderated by John FitzGerald

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



PHOTOGRAPHER: CLAIRE HOLT



**Marie Howe** is the author of five books of poetry. Her retrospective, *What the Earth Seemed to Say: New & Selected Poems* (Bloodaxe Books, 2024), draws on four collections published in the US: *Magdalene* (W.W. Norton, 2017), which was longlisted for the National Book Award; *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time* (W.W. Norton, 2009), which was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize; *What the Living Do* (W.W. Norton, 1998); and *The Good Thief* (Persea Books, 1988), which was selected by Margaret Atwood for the 1987 National Poetry Series.

*“Marie Howe’s poetry is luminous, intense, and eloquent, rooted in an abundant inner life. Her long, deep-breathing lines address the mysteries of flesh and spirit, in terms accessible only to a woman who is very much of our time and yet still in touch with the sacred.”*  
— Stanley Kunitz



Born in 1967, **Krisztina Tóth** is one of the most popular and best known Central European authors, and the recipient of numerous awards. She studied sculpting and literature in Budapest, spending two years in Paris

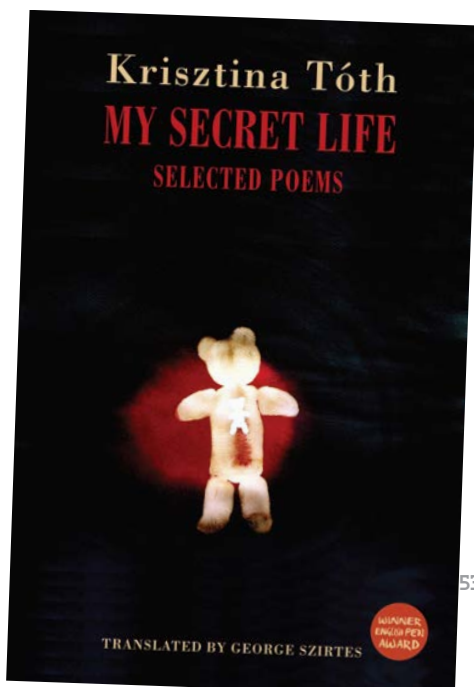


during her university years. She has published nine books of poetry and ten books of prose to date as well as 24 books for children. Her work was featured in the anthology *New Order: Hungarian Poets of the Post 1989 Generation* (Arc Publications, 2010). The first book of her poetry in English translation, *My Secret Life: Selected Poems*, translated by George Szirtes, is published by Bloodaxe in 2025.

*My Secret Life* received financial assistance from English PEN's PEN Translates programme, supported by Arts Council England.

*"Her work has the nervous energy of the times but is shaped by a deep and disciplined intelligence. Her subjects are invariably human. They are concerned with love, family, friendship, loss, and a kind of existential disaffection ... Her vigour and scope are enormous."*  
— George Szirtes

ENGLISH  
PEN



## Moderators

**Dean Browne** received the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize in 2021 and his pamphlet, *Kitchens at Night*, was a winner of the Poetry Business International Pamphlet Competition; it was published by Smith|Doorstop in 2022. His poems have appeared in *London Magazine*, *New York Review of Books*, *Poetry Magazine*, *The Stinging Fly*, and elsewhere. His first collection, *After Party*, will be published by Picador in September.

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

File, aistritheoir, eagarthóir agus seandálaí is ea **Simon Ó Faoláin**. Tá ceithre chnuasach filíochta foilsithe aige go dtí seo, an ceann is déanaí *Iasachtaigh* (2022), agus trí leabhar d'aistriúcháin liteartha, an ceann is déanaí *Meidéa le Eoiripidéas* (2024).

**Simon Ó Faoláin** is a poet, translator, editor and archaeologist. He has published four poetry collections in Irish, the latest *Iasachtaigh* (2022), and three books of literary translation, the latest *Meidéa le Eoiripidéas* (2024).

**John FitzGerald's** latest poetry collection *Long Distance* was published by The Gallery Press in 2024. It follows two other Gallery books, *The Time Being* (2021) and a translation to English of the Irish lament Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire, *The Lament for Art O'Leary* (2023). The Salvage Press has published two letterpress editions of his poetry: *Darklight* (2019) and *Haiku na Feirme* (2022).

**Patrick Holloway** is an Irish writer of fiction and poetry and is an editor of the literary journal, *The Four Faced Liar*. He is the winner of the Bath Short Story Award, The Molly Keane Creative Writing Prize, The Flash 500 Prize, the Allingham Fiction contest and he was the recipient of the Paul McVeigh Residency in 2023. His debut novel, *The Language of Remembering*, was published in February 2025.

**Róisín Leggett Bohan** was runner-up in the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award 2024. Her work appears in *PIR*, *Banshee*, *Magma*, *Aesthetica*, and *The Pomegranate London*. She has several poems in *Beginnings Over and Over: Four New Poets from Ireland*, a Dedalus Press anthology and poems forthcoming in *The Stinging Fly*. Róisín is grateful for a literature bursary from the Arts Council.

**Afric McGlinchey** is a multi-award-winning poet and author of *Tied to the Wind* (Broken Sleep Books, 2021), a prose poetry childhood memoir, for which she was awarded an Arts Council Literature Bursary. A Macedonian translation is forthcoming in 2025. Two poetry collections were translated into Italian. Her new collection, *À la belle étoile* (Salmon Poetry) appears in April 2025.

**David McLoughlin** is the author of three collections of poetry with Salmon Poetry, most recently *Crash Centre*, described by Thomas McCarthy as “unquestionably triumphant with poetic victories.” He received a Katherine and Patrick Kavanagh Fellowship in 2023, won the Open category of The Voices of War International Poetry Competition in 2018, and teaches creative writing widely online and across Ireland.

**Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh** is an award-winning Irish-language poet. She has published three collections of poetry, most recently *Tonn Teaspaigh agus Dánta Eile* (Éabhlóid 2022). A bilingual collection, *The Coast Road*, was published by The Gallery Press, and includes English translations by thirteen poets. She published translations from the French of Andrée Chéhid in 2019. She is a lecturer in UCC.

**Lauren O'Donovan** has won the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award, the Cúirt New Writing Prize, and the Southword Subscriber's Poetry Prize. She is co-founder of *HOWL New Irish Writing* and Lime Square Poets, and a grateful recipient of Cork County Council Arts and Arts Council funding. Lauren is this year's winner of the Fool for Poetry International Chapbook Competition.

**Lani O'Hanlon** is a dance artist, somatic movement therapist and writer living in a renovated cottage beside the sea in County Waterford. Her poetry collection *Landscape of the Body* was published in 2023 by the Dedalus Press. Her poetry is widely published and broadcast on RTE's *Sunday Miscellany*. She is this year's winner of the Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition.

**James O'Leary's** first poetry chapbook, *There Are Monsters in This House* (Southword Editions 2018) lives in the grey areas between addiction and recovery, co-dependence and love. This was followed by *Sacrament of the Sick* (Well Review Editions 2023), about illness and mysticism.

**Pádraig Ó Tuama** is an internationally recognised poet, podcaster, and the best-selling anthologist of *Poetry Unbound: 50 Poems to Open Your World* (Canongate, 2022). His most recent collection is *Kitchen Hymns* (CHEERIO Publishing) and previous collections include *In the Shelter*, *Sorry for Your Troubles*, and *Feed the Beasts*. He presents the podcast Poetry Unbound with On Being Studios.

**Keith Payne** is the author of ten collections of poetry in translation and original poetry, most recently *Savage Acres* (Dedalus Press, April 2025). *Building the Boat* (Badly Made Books), was featured on BBC Radio 3's The Essay and *Whales and Whales*, from the Galician of Luisa Castro, was published by Skein Press in April 2024. He is curator of the Aodh Ruadh Ó Domhnaill Poetry Exchange Ireland/Galicia.

**Liz Quirke** is a poet and lecturer in creative writing. Salmon Poetry published *The Road, Slowly* in 2018 and *How We Arrive in Winter* in 2021. She is currently finishing her third collection of poetry and working on a creative-nonfiction project. She was awarded a PhD by University of Galway in 2022 and teaches creative writing (poetry) in UCC.

**Kemi George Simpson's** work can be found in *The Four Faced Liar*, *Swerve*, *Good Day Cork* and Cork Council's Poetry in the Park Collection. She is the 2024 Munster Poetry Slam Champion, who has performed poetry for ÓBhéal's Winter Warmer Festival, Cork Africa Day, Africans Connect, Swerve Lit Lounge, Sling Slang at Maureens, Ireland Reads and DeBarras Spoken Word.

## 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.

## FUNDERS & CREATIVE PARTNERS



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí  
Cork City Council  
**Arts Ealaíona**



**LIBRARIES  
LEABHARLANNA**

CORK CITY COUNCIL | COMHAIRLE CATHRACH CHORCAÍ



**DEDALUS  
PRESS**



With the support of the  
Creative Europe Programme  
of the European Union



**VERSOPOLIS  
Poetry**

Founded in 1993, the Munster Literature Centre (Ionad Litríochta an Deiscirt) is a non-profit arts organisation dedicated to the promotion and celebration of literature, especially that of Munster.

[www.munsterlit.ie](http://www.munsterlit.ie)



[/munsterlitcentre.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/munsterlitcentre)



[/munsterliteraturecentre](https://www.facebook.com/munsterliteraturecentre)