

Cork
Spring
Poetry
Festival

15-18 February
2012

Dear Patron,

For years Cork was a region which produced major short story writers. She still brings forth many writers of fiction and plays, but in the past thirty years she has been most prodigious in fostering poets. Here is the festival brochure for the first ***Cork Spring Poetry Festival***. The Munster Literature Centre has been presenting Spring literary festivals in Cork for over fifteen years. This year we have decided to make the festival exclusively poetry in acknowledgement of the preference for poetry by our past Spring Festival audiences and also to celebrate Cork's poetic heritage at a time when the country has just acquired its first poet President.

This year at our festival we have poets from eight countries. From Ireland we have poets writing in Irish such as **Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill**, and Irish poets writing in English such as **Kerry Hardie** and **Thomas McCarthy**, as well as many others, both established poets and some with their first book published.

The United States is represented by senior poet **Gregory Orr** from Virginia, not only a great poet and teacher of poetry but a veteran activist of the Civil Rights movement. From America comes also ethnic Palestinian **Nathalie Handal** and Cork exile, now US citizen, **Greg Delanty**.

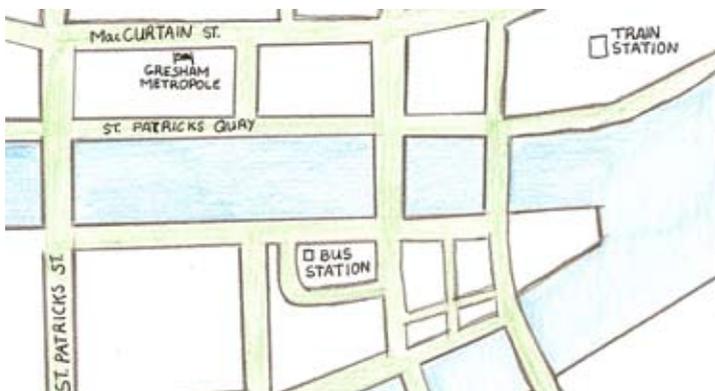
From the UK we have poets and industry luminaries **Fiona Sampson** and **Neil Astley** who will be making a special presentation from his *Being Human* anthology - the latest in a phenomenal best-selling series.

Poets from Canada, Croatia, Italy, New Zealand and Slovenia are also represented. Emerging poets will be given a chance through the **PreBooked Event**. We will have a reading by the prizewinner of the third **Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Prize** and poets wishing to hone their skills can sign up for the four day **Masterclass Workshop** with Greg Delanty.

We invite you to reacquaint yourself with poets you know well and enjoy the genius of poets who are new to you.

Patrick Cotter
Festival Director

Metropole Hotel - Venue for Readings



Munster Lit Centre - Venue for Workshop



Advance Bookings

The Munster Literature Centre
Tigh Litríochta an Deiscirt
t. + 353 (0)21 4312955
or email info@munsterlit.ie
or pay through credit card/paypal on
www.corkpoetryfest.net

Front Cover image: *Who Will Be a Winner?* © Gundega Dege 2011

Events at a Glance

Wednesday

7pm Wine Reception, Rosemary Canavan
& Noel Monahan

9pm Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill & Thomas McCarthy

Thursday

7.30pm Greg Delanty & Aifric Mac Aodha

9pm Elisa Biagini & Paddy Bushe & Fiona Sampson

Friday

7.30pm Kerry Hardie & Taja Kramberger
& Gregory O'Brien

9pm Daragh Breen & Mary Dalton
& Nathalie Handal

Saturday

3pm Neil Astley & Being Human

4pm Prebooked Poetry Reading

7pm Katie Donovan & Damir Sodan
& Patrick Warner

8.30 Gregory Orr & Billy Ramsell

Wednesday 15th 7pm

*Wine Reception & Readings
by Rosemary Canavan and Noel Monahan
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)*



ROSEMARY CANAVAN was born in Scotland in 1949 and now lives in County Cork. She has published two poetry collections *The Island* (Story Line 2004) and *Trucker's Moll* (Salmon 2009). Other publications include children's books, translations of French short stories and anthologies. She has been Poetry Editor for *Southword*. Awards include a Hawthornden Fellowship, a bursary in Literature from the Arts Council of Ireland and residencies in Cork and Kerry.

NOEL MONAHAN has published five collections of poems, all with Salmon, the most recent is *Curve of the Moon* in 2010. Among his awards are the Seacat National Poetry Award, the Allingham Poetry Award and the Kilkenny Prize for Poetry. His poetry has been translated into Italian, Romanian and French and has appeared in many anthologies, most recently texts for the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate state exams. He is co-editor of Windows Publications

Wednesday 15th 9pm

*Readings by Thomas McCarthy
and Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)*



THOMAS MCCARTHY was born in Co. Waterford in 1954 and educated at University College, Cork. He has published eight collections of poetry (most recently *The Last Geraldine Officer*), two novels and a memoir. He has won the Patrick Kavanagh Award, the American-Irish Foundation's Literary Award, and the O'Shaughnessy Prize for Poetry. He has worked for Cork City Libraries since 1977. He is a member of Aosdána.

NUALA NÍ DHOMHNAILL was born in 1952 and grew up in the Irish-speaking areas of West Kerry and in Tipperary. She studied at University College, Cork, and now lives in Dublin. She has published four collections of poems in Irish, *An Dealg Droighin* (1981), *Féar Suaitheiseach* (1984), *Feis* (1991) and *Cead Aighnis* (1998). and four collections of her poems, with translations into English by, among others, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and Paul Muldoon. She was Ireland Professor of Poetry (2002-2004).

Thursday 16th 7.30pm

*Readings by Greg Delanty
and Aifric Mac Aodha
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)*



GREG DELANTY was born in Cork, Ireland in 1958, and now lives for most of the year in America, where he teaches at St Michael's College, Vermont. He was awarded the Austin Clarke Centenary Poetry award in 1996 and won the UK National Poetry Competition in 1999. His *Collected Poems* was published by Carcanet in 2006. His next volume *The Greek Anthology Book XVII* will be published in Autumn 2012.

AIFRIC MAC AODHA was born in Dublin in 1979. Her first collection, *Gabháil Syrinx* (The Capture of Syrinx) was edited by Pádraig Ó Fiannachta and published by An Sagart in 2010. She is the Irish-language poetry editor of *Combar* and *The Stinging Fly*. At University College, Dublin, she studied Old Irish and Modern Irish. Her profound knowledge of the Gaelic tradition, as well as Greek mythology, has influenced her work.

Thursday 16th 9pm

Readings by Elisa Biagini
Paddy Bushe and Fiona Sampson
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)



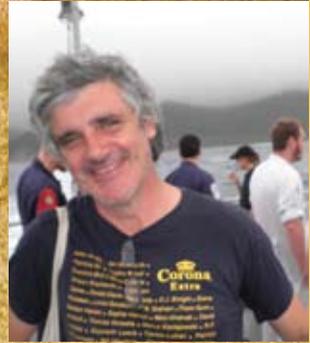
ELISA BIAGINI born in 1970, lives in Florence. Biagini has published six poetry collections, most recently *Nel Bosco* 2007. Her work is included in many anthologies both in Italy and the United States. She has translated into Italian Sharon Olds, Lucile Clifton, Alicia Ostriker amongst others and her own work has been translated into many languages. She teaches Creative Writing and literature in American Universities in Italy and abroad.

PADDY BUSHE, born in Dublin in 1948, now lives in Kerry. He writes in both Irish and English, and has published eight collections of poetry, the most recent of which is *To Ring in Silence: New and Selected Poems* (Dedalus Press, 2008), a bilingual volume. A new collection, *My Lord Buddha of Carraig Éanna*, will be published by Dedalus in the spring of 2012. He is a member of Aosdána.

FIONA SAMPSON'S most recent books are: *Rough Music* (Carcenet 2010) and *Common Prayer* (Carcenet 2007, shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize, poem shortlisted for a Forward Prize) and *Writing: Self and Reflexivity* (with Celia Hunt; Macmillan, 2005). She has been widely translated, with eight books in translation. She has received the Newdigate Prize, writers' awards from the Arts Councils of England and Wales and the Society of Authors and in the United States, the Literary Review's Charles Angoff Award.

Friday 17th 7.30pm

*Readings by Kerry Hardie
Taja Kramberger and Gregory O'Brien
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)*



KERRY HARDIE has published five collections of poetry, the most recent being *Only This Room*. Her *Selected Poems* was published by both Gallery and Bloodaxe in 2011. She has also published two novels, and is working on a third. Her work has been widely anthologized and translated. She has won many prizes, including the Friends Provident National Poetry Prize and the Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry. She is a member of Aosdána.

TAJA KRAMBERGER born 1970, a poet, essayist, translator. She works as a university lecturer and researcher. She has published nine books of poetry: seven in Slovenian, one in German and one Multilingual (*Mobilizacije/Mobilisations/Mobilizations/ Mobilitazioni* 2004). Her poems have been published in numerous literary anthologies and journals in Slovenia and abroad. She is a regular guest of international poetry festivals.

Born 1961, **GREGORY O'BRIEN** is a Wellington-based poet, artist, essayist, curator and art writer, who has published numerous books in Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Carcanet has published two of his titles: *Days Beside Water* and *News of the Swimmer Reaches Shore*. A new book of poems, *Beauties of the Octagonal Pool*, is forthcoming. In recent years O'Brien has produced poetry in collaboration with composers, photographers, painters and the fashion designer Doris De Pont.

Friday 17th 9pm

Readings by Daragh Breen
Mary Dalton and Nathalie Handal
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)



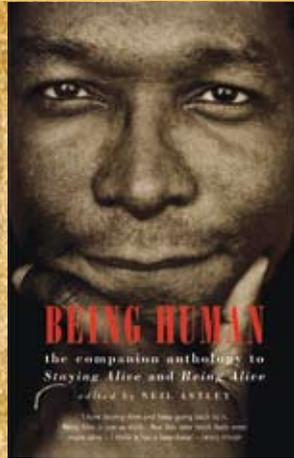
DARAGH BREEN (b. 1970) lives in Cork. He has published two collections to-date, both with November Press. *Across the Sound* in 2003, and *Whale* in 2010. His work has appeared widely in Irish literary journals, including *Poetry Ireland*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Cyphers*, *The SHOP* and *Cork Literary Review*. In 2005 he took part in Poetry Ireland's 'Introductions Series'. In 2001 he won The Sean Dunne Festival National Poetry Award.

MARY DALTON has published four books of poetry, most recently *Merrybegot* which won the 2005 E.J. Pratt Poetry Award. *Red Ledger* was named as one of The Globe and Mail's Top 100 Books of the Year in 2006. Her new book, *Hooking*, is due out in 2013. Dalton is Professor of English at Memorial University of Newfoundland in St. John's.

NATHALIE HANDAL is an award winning poet of Palestinian ethnicity living in the USA. She has published four poetry collections, most recently *Love and Strange Horses* and *Poet in Andalucia*. Handal is the editor of *The Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology* and co-editor of *Language for a New Century: Contemporary Poetry from the Middle East, Asia & Beyond*. She has been involved either as a writer, director or producer in over twenty theatrical or film productions worldwide.

Saturday 18th 2.30pm

*Readings by Neil Astley & others
from the anthology Being Human
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)*



NEIL ASTLEY is editor of Bloodaxe Books which he founded in 1978. His books include novels, poetry collections and anthologies, most notably the Bloodaxe *Staying Alive* trilogy: *Staying Alive* (2002), *Being Alive* (2004) and *Being Human* (2011). His other anthologies include the DVD-book *In Person: 30 Poets*. He has published two novels, *The End of My Tether*, which was shortlisted for the Whitbread First Novel Award, and *The Sheep Who Changed the World*. He received an Eric Gregory Award for his poetry and was given a D.Litt from Newcastle University for his work with Bloodaxe Books. He lives in Northumberland.

BEING HUMAN is the third book in the *Staying Alive* poetry trilogy which has introduced many thousands of new readers to contemporary poetry. The range of poetry here encompasses hundreds of thoughtful and passionate poems about living in the modern world; poems that touch the heart, stir the mind and fire the spirit; poems about being human, about love and loss, fear and longing, hurt and wonder. There are more great poems from the 20th century as well as many recent poems of rare imaginative power from the first decade of the 21st century.

Saturday 18th 4pm

*Reading of the winning poem of the Gregory
O'Donoghue International Poetry Prize followed
by Prebooked Poetry Reading
Free*

This is where the winner of our annual poetry competition is revealed with a reading of the winning poem, hopefully by the winning poet.

The Prebooked Poetry Reading is a free event involving up to eight individuals who have yet to publish a full length collection of poems. Each poet will have the opportunity to read three poems of 40 lines or under.

If you would like a chance to partake in this event submit three poems with a biographical note listing any magazine publication credits. Submissions will be accepted by email before January 10th 2012 to: munsterlit@eircom.net.

Emails must have the subject heading "Prebooked Poetry Reading".

The list of chosen poets will be posted on www.munsterlit.ie by January 20th.

Saturday 18th 7.00pm

*Readings by Katie Donovan
Damir Šodan and Patrick Warner
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)*



KATIE DONOVAN born 1962 in Co. Wexford. She has published four books of poetry, all with Bloodaxe, most recently *Rootling: New and Selected Poems* (2010). She is co-editor, with Brendan Kennelly and A. Norman Jeffares, of the anthology, *Ireland's Women: Writings Past and Present*. She is the author of *Irish Women Writers: Marginalised by Whom?* (Raven Arts Press, 1988, 1991). With Brendan Kennelly she is the co-editor of *Dublines* (Bloodaxe, 1996), an anthology of writings about Dublin.

DAMIR ŠODAN born 1964 is a Croatian poet, playwright and translator. He has published three volumes of poetry. Amongst others, he has translated the works of Raymond Carver, Charles Simic, Leonard Cohen, Denis Johnson, Charles Bukowski and Richard Brautigan. His poetry has been frequently anthologized and translated into a dozen languages. He has edited several anthologies.

PATRICK WARNER was born in Claremorris, Co. Mayo in 1963. He immigrated to Canada in 1980 and since then has lived mostly in St. John's, Newfoundland. He has written three collections of poetry: *All Manner of Misunderstanding* 2001, *There, there* 2005 and *Mole* 2009. He is twice winner of the E.J. Pratt Poetry Prize. In 2011 he published a novel, *Double Talk*. He works as a special collections librarian.

Saturday 18th 8.30pm

*Readings by Gregory Orr
and Billy Ramsell
Tickets €6 & €5 (concession)*



In 1947, **GREGORY ORR** was born in Albany, New York. He is the author of numerous collections of poetry, including *How Beautiful the Beloved* (Copper Canyon Press, 2009); *Concerning the Book that is the Body of the Beloved* (2005); *The Caged Owl: New and Selected Poems* (2002) He is also the author of a memoir, *The Blessing* (Council Oak Books, 2002), which was chosen by *Publisher's Weekly* as one of the fifty best non-fiction books the year, and three books of essays, including *Poetry As Survival* (2002) and *Stanley Kunitz: An Introduction to the Poetry* (1985).

BILLY RAMSELL was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1977 and educated at the North Monastery and UCC. *Complicated Pleasures*, his debut collection, was published by the Dedalus Press, Dublin, in 2007. He has been shortlisted for a Strong Award and a Hennessy Award. He lives in Cork, where he co-runs an educational publishing company. In 2012 he takes up the editorship of the Irish domain on www.poetryinternational.org

Four Day Poetry Masterclass

with Greg Delanty

Each morning Wednesday – Saturday 9.30–12.30

Limited to ten places, course cost €150 or €120 with purchase of tickets for all readings. Book with info@munsterlit.ie or phone 021-4312955

RELEASING TWO BIRDS (OR MORE) FROM THE ONE CAGE

Workshop 1 Imagery and the Senses

Artists physicalize the abstract. A regular question people ask is “how are your spirits?”

and people answer without thinking that they feel good or bad or not too bad. But where are their spirits? Has anybody seen, felt, heard, touched, smelled a spirit? We will talk about how the poet physicalizes abstract notions such as the spirit, love, happiness, and sadness via language.

Workshop 2 Making it New (or Renewing) and Leaving a Gap

The title of these workshops is Releasing Two Birds (or More) from the One Cage. We as writers show the world in a new way, breaking from cliché. This is not as easy as it may seem. This workshop will examine the devices and ways, such as metaphor and simile, of making it new, of showing the world in a new way. This is probably the most fundamental attribute of an artist. We will also talk about leaving space in the poem, of how what we leave out is as important as what we include.

Workshop 3 Sound

We will work on how the sound of words can work with the literal meaning of a poem. How everything in a poem must be working in sync.

Workshop 4 Form

Another aspect of working in sync with the literal meaning of the poem is the form. We will examine a traditional form poem, an open form poem, and a mixture of both and see how each is integral to the literal meaning of that poem.

If we accomplish all this, we will have released at least five birds from the one cage



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Festival Team

Festival Director: Patrick Cotter

Administration: Jennifer Matthews

MLC Board of Management:

Sue Cosgrave, Edward Fahy, Andrew Lane, Aisling Meade, Clara Murphy, Liz O'Donoghue, Billy Ramsell, Pádraig Trehy.

Special thanks to:

Arts Council Head of Literature:

Sarah Bannan

Cork City Council Arts Officer:

Liz Meaney



ARTS COUNCIL
NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA



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