

# WELCOME

Engage with world-class poets from the comfort of your own living room. The 2021 festival promises 13 great events carried by Zoom directly to you. All events are free with the opportunity to make a donation. In this wide-ranging programme there is a poet for everyone. Proportionally more poets from Ireland are featured this year, in a line-up which also includes award-winning poets from Britain, France, Jamaica, Poland and the USA. Ben Okri and Doireann Ní Ghríofa read together as two poets who are bestselling prose writers. Martín Espada and Rita Ann Higgins come together as two working-class heroes. Other politically committed poets such as Rachael Hegarty and Roger Robinson also feature. Moya Cannon and Mary O'Donnell, two pioneer women, who established themselves with Salmon during the 90s, will read together. Salmon is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year as a publisher which, during the 90s gave many women in Ireland their first chance at book publication. Two fabulous poets dedicated to observing nature are brought together at the festival: Eamon Grennan and Sean Hewitt. Martina Evans and Sara Berkeley-Tolchin present two contrasting examples of Irish émigré poetry careers. Poetry in translation comes in the form of Polish poet Anna Adamowicz and Franco-Romanian poet Linda Maria Baros, as well as a bi-lingual feature on the late Seán Ó Ríordáin. Two exciting debutant poets you can see are Victoria Kennefick and Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe. Grief, in the form of threnodies and poems anticipating mortality, is explored in an event featuring Caitriona Clutterbuck (whose only child died suddenly) and Mary Noonan reading the poems of her late partner Matthew Sweeney whose final book was composed after a diagnosis of motor-neurone disease. Other poets featured include David Constantine, John Ennis, Kwame Dawes and Kerry Hardie. There will also be an event which presents this year's Gregory O'Donoghue prizewinners as well as the launch of our latest Fool for Poetry chapbooks by New England poet Felicity Sheehy and old England poet Vicky Morris.

**The Munster Literature Centre | Ionad Litríocht an Deiscirt**

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**#CorkPoetryFest21**



# Programme Outline

Monday 10th - Saturday 15th May

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## Reading & Discussion

# Two Debutants: Victoria Kennefick & Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe

Monday 10th 7.30pm **Online**



**Victoria Kennefick** is a poet, writer and teacher from Shanagarry, Co. Cork now based in Co. Kerry. She holds a doctorate in English from University College Cork and studied at Emory University and Georgia College and State University as part of a Fulbright Scholarship. Her first collection, *Eat Or We Both Starve*, was published by Carcanet this year. Her pamphlet, *White Whale* (Southword Editions, 2015), won the Munster Literature Centre Fool for Poetry Chapbook Competition and the Saboteur Award for Best Poetry Pamphlet. Her work has appeared in *Poetry*, *The Poetry Review*, *PN Review*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Poetry News*, *Prelude*, *Copper Nickel*, *The Irish Times*, *Ambit*, *bath magg*, *Banshee* and elsewhere.

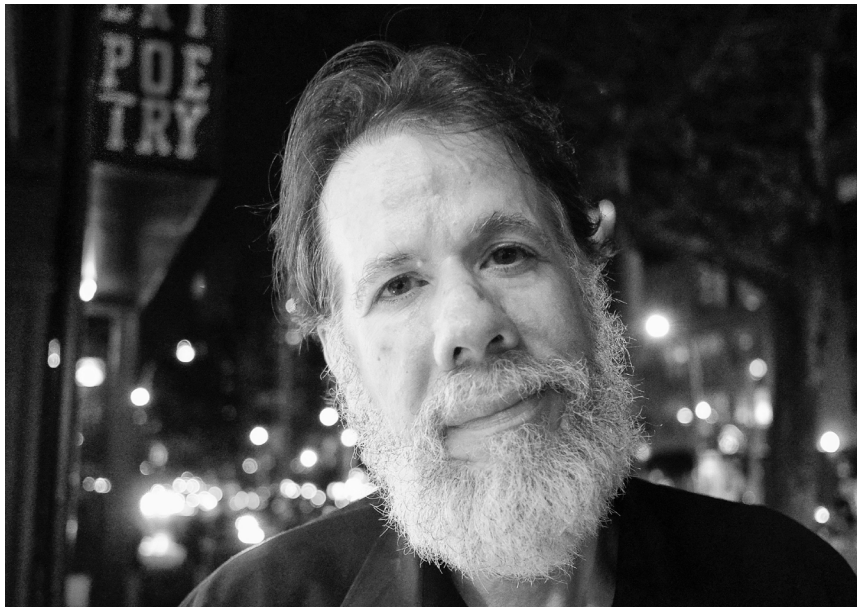


**Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe** is a poet, pacifist and fabulist. Born in India, she grew up across the Middle East, Europe and North America, before calling Ireland home. Founder of the Play It Forward Fellowships, she is poetry editor at Skein Press and Fallow Media, and contributing editor with *The Stinging Fly*. She is a recipient of the Next Generation Artist Award in Literature from the Arts Council of Ireland and the inaugural Ireland Chair of Poetry Student Award. Her debut poetry collection, *Auguries of a Minor God*, is forthcoming from Faber & Faber in July 2021.

## Reading & Discussion

# Two Working Class Heroes: Martín Espada & Rita Ann Higgins

Monday 10th 9.00pm **Online**



**Martín Espada** has published more than twenty books as a poet, editor, essayist and translator. His new book of poems is called *Floater* (2021). Other collections of poems include *Vivas to Those Who Have Failed* (2016), *The Trouble Ball* (2011), and *Alabanza* (2003). He is the editor of *What Saves Us: Poems of Empathy and Outrage in the Age of Trump* (2019). His honors include the Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize, the Shelley Memorial Award, an Academy of American Poets Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship. A former tenant lawyer, Espada is a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.



**Rita Ann Higgins** was born in 1955 in Galway, Ireland, where she still lives. Her first five poetry collections were published by Salmon: *Goddess on the Mervue Bus* (1986); *Witch in the Bushes* (1988); *Goddess and Witch* (1990); *Philomena's Revenge* (1992); and *Higher Purchase* (1996), as well as a memoir *Hurting God* (2010). Bloodaxe Books published her next five collections: *Sunny Side Plucked* (1996); *An Awful Racket* (2001); *Throw in the Vowels: New & Selected Poems* (2005); *Ireland is Changing Mother* (2011), and *Tongulish* (2016). *Our Killer City*, a book of essays with poems, appeared from Salmon in 2019. In 2020, Rita Ann became the People's Pandemic Poet Laureate for The Brendan O'Connor Show on RTE Radio 1. Her latest collection is *Pathogens Love A Patsy - Pandemic and Other Poems* (2020).

## Reading & Discussion

# Two Poets - Bestsellers in Prose: Doireann Ní Ghríofa & Ben Okri

Tuesday 11th 7.30pm **Online**



**Doireann Ní Ghríofa** is a poet and essayist. *A Ghost in the Throat* finds an 18th-century poet haunting a young mother, prompting her to turn detective. It was voted Irish Book of the Year 2020, and described as “glowing” (Anne Enright), “captivatingly original” (The Guardian), “sumptuous” (The Sunday Times), and a “masterpiece” (Sunday Business Post). Doireann is also author of six critically-acclaimed books of poetry, each a deepening exploration of birth, death, desire, and domesticity. Awards for her writing include a Lannan Literary Fellowship (USA), the Ostana Prize (Italy), a Seamus Heaney Fellowship and the Rooney Prize for Irish Literature.





**Ben Okri** was born in Minna, Nigeria. His childhood was divided between Nigeria, where he saw first hand the consequences of war, and London. He is a poet, novelist, essayist, short story writer, anthologist, aphorist, and playwright. his poem for Grenfell Tower was watched more than 6 million times on Channel 4 News' Facebook page. *A Fire in My Head*, new and recently completed poems, covers topics of the day, such as the refugee crisis, racism, Obama, and the Grenfell Tower.

## Reading & Discussion

# Two Poets in Translation: Anna Adamowicz & Linda Maria Baros

Tuesday 11th 9.00pm **Online**



**Anna Adamowicz** (born in 1993 in Lubin, Poland) is a medical laboratory scientist, poet, and author of three volumes of poetry: *Wątpia* (2016), *Animalia* (2019) and *Nebula* (2020). Her poems have been translated into English, Russian, Czech, Hungarian and Slovenian. She lives and works in Wrocław. She was nominated for the Gdynia Literary Prize for her debut poetry volume *Wątpia* and for WARTO – the Cultural Award of “Gazeta Wyborcza” Journal for her second poetry volume *Animalia*.

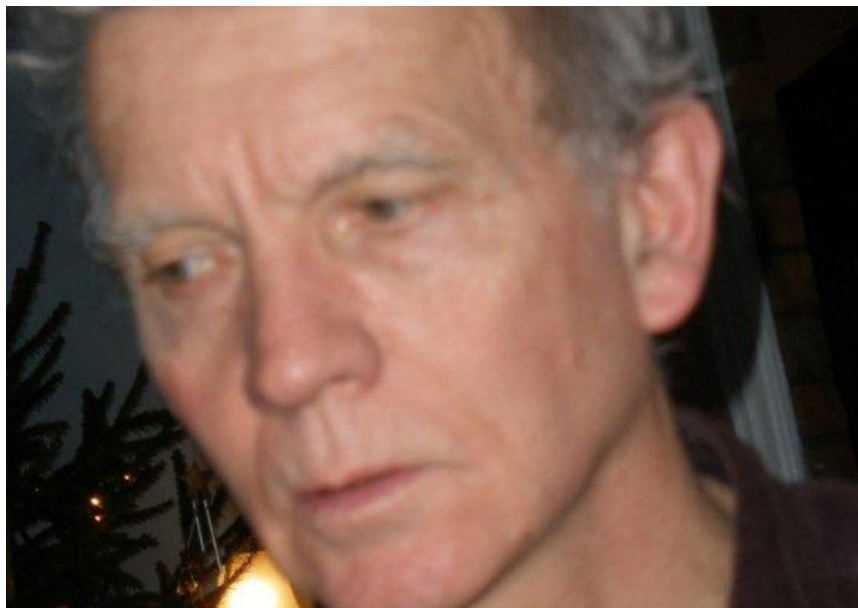


**Linda Maria Baros:** Poet. Translator. Publisher. Born in 1981 in Bucharest. Holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from the Sorbonne University. Lives in Paris. *La nageuse désossée*, *Légendes métropolitaines* (The Deboned Swimmer, Metropolitan Legends) and 5 other poetry books. Poems translated into 40 languages. Winner and general secretary of the prestigious Apollinaire Prize. Full member and general rapporteur of the Mallarmé Academy. Vice-president of the French PEN Club. Has translated 43 books. Director of La Traductière publishing house and of Poésie Poetry Paris/French-English Poetry Festival. Editor in chief of the poetry and visual art magazine La Traductière. Huge silver claw ring on right hand.

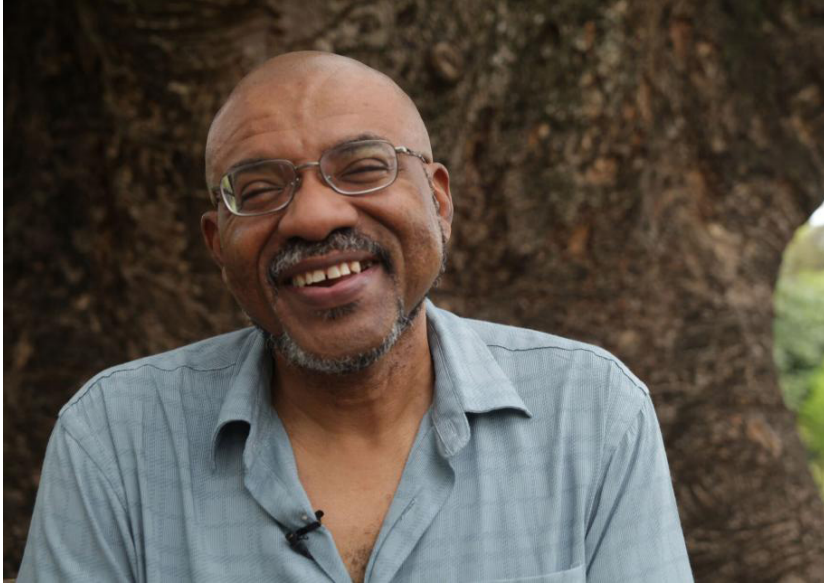
## Reading & Discussion

# David Constantine & Kwame Dawes

Wednesday 12th 7.30pm **Online**



**David Constantine** has published a dozen volumes of poetry (most recently, in 2020, *Belongings*); also two novels and five collections of short stories, the most recent of these being *The Dressing-up Box*, 2019. His *Tea at the Midland* (2012) won the Frank O' Connor International Short Story Award. He is an editor and translator of Hölderlin, Goethe, Kleist and Brecht. In 2020 he was awarded the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.



**Kwame Dawes** is the author of twenty books of poetry and numerous other books of fiction, criticism, and essays. In 2016 his book, *Speak from Here to There*, a co-written collection of verse with Australian poet John Kinsella appeared. This was followed by *City of Bones: A Testament* (Northwestern University Press, 2017). He is Glenna Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner* and teaches at the University of Nebraska and the Pacific MFA Program. He is Director of the African Poetry Book Fund and Artistic Director of the Calabash International Literary Festival. Often called ‘the busiest man in literature’, Kwame celebrated the publication of eight new books in 2016-2017.

## Reading & Discussion

# Two Poets in Grief: Catriona Clutterbuck & Mary Noonan reads Matthew Sweeney

Wednesday 12th 9.00pm **Online**



Born in 1964, **Catriona Clutterbuck** grew up in a farming family in County Tipperary, close to the area where she now lives. She worked as a primary school teacher from the mid-1980s to the early '90s, before completing postgraduate studies in the University of Oxford. Her debut collection, *The Magpie and the Child*, was published by Wake Forest University Press in March. Her chapbook, *Ghosts in my Heels* (South Tipperary Arts Centre and *Start* magazine), was published in 2005. She was the winner of the 1995 Richard Ellmann Prize (in association with Oxford Poetry) and her work was selected for Poetry Ireland's Introductions Readings in 2006. She teaches Irish literature at University College Dublin.



**Matthew Sweeney** (1952–2018) was the author of 13 collections of poetry. He was also the author of novels and poetry for children, and the editor of several selections and anthologies. He died of motor neurone disease in 2018. His final book, *Shadow of the Owl* was published posthumously by Bloodaxe Books in 2020. Matthew's collections include *The Bridal Suite* (1997), *A Smell of Fish* (2000), *Selected Poems* (2002) and *Black Moon* (2007), published by Jonathan Cape; *The Night Post: A Selection* (2010) published by Salt; *Horse Music* (2013), *Inquisition Lane* (2015), and *My Life as a Painter* (2018), published by Bloodaxe Books.

*A Selection* (2010) published by Salt; *Horse Music* (2013), *Inquisition Lane* (2015), and *My Life as a Painter* (2018), published by Bloodaxe Books.



**Mary Noonan** is a poet and academic who lives in Cork. Her first collection, *The Fado House* (Dedalus, 2012) was shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Centre Prize and the Strong/Shine Award; the manuscript of the collection won the Listowel Poetry Prize. A limited edition pamphlet, *Father* was published by Bonnefant Press in 2015. Her second collection, *Stone Girl*, was published by Dedalus Press in February 2019. It was shortlisted for the Derek Walcott Poetry Prize in 2020.

## Reading & Discussion

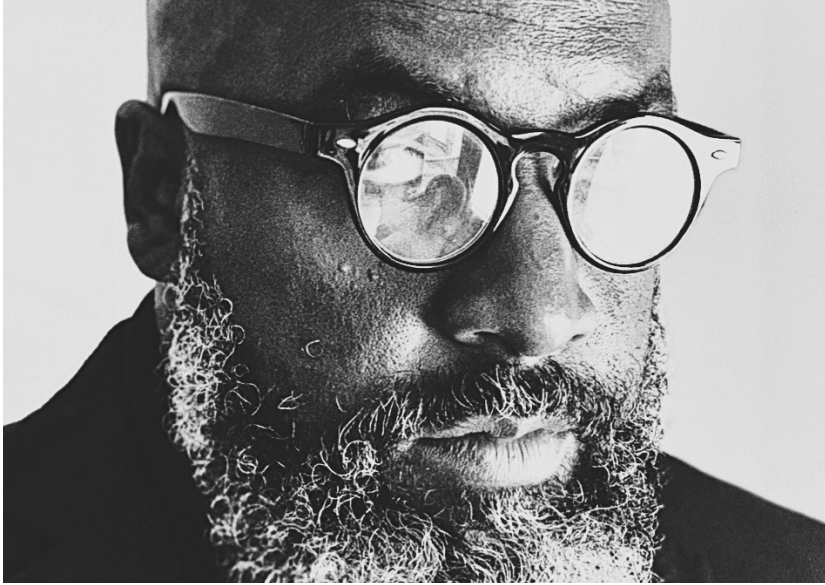
# Rachael Hegarty & Roger Robinson

Thursday 13th 7.30pm **Online**



**Rachael Hegarty** is a Dubliner. Her debut collection, *Flight Paths Over Finglas* won the 2018 Shine Strong Award. A child survivor of the Talbot Street bomb, her collection *May Day 1974* (Salmon, 2019) has received critical acclaim for the 33 docu-sonnets and 33 ballads for the people who died on the single worst day *The Troubles*. Her third collection, *Dancing with Memory* (Salmon, 2021) is a dance hall of memory for her mother who lives with Alzheimer's. She teaches at the Trinity Access Programme because she wants more working-class students causing some havoc in academia. Rachael's kids say she uses the 3 F- words too much: Finglas, feminism and feekin' poetry.





**Roger Robinson** is a writer who has performed worldwide. He is the winner of the T.S. Eliot Prize 2019 and the RSL Ondaatje Prize 2020, shortlisted for the Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry 2020 and shortlisted for The OCM Bocas Poetry Prize, The Oxford Brookes Poetry Prize, highly commended by the Forward Poetry Prize. His latest collection *A Portable Paradise* was a Newstatesman book of the year. He was chosen by Decibel as one of 50 writers who have influenced the black-British writing canon. He is an alumnus of *The Complete Works* and he has toured extensively with the British Council.

## Reading & Discussion

# Two Irish Émigré Poets: Sara Berkeley Tolchin & Martina Evans

Thursday 13th 9.00pm **Online**



**Sara Berkeley Tolchin** was born and raised in Dublin. At 19, she had her first collection of poems published by Raven Arts Press. She has had five subsequent collections published by Raven, Bloodaxe Books, Thistle-down Press and The Gallery Press, as well as a novel and short story collection. She lived in the San Francisco Bay Area for 30 years but recently moved to upstate New York where she is a hospice nurse. She's working on a new poetry collection and a book about hospice nursing titled *Hello Goodbye One Day The End*.



**Martina Evans** grew up in County Cork and trained in Dublin as a radiographer before moving to London in 1988. She is the author of twelve books of poetry and prose. She has won several awards including the Premio Ciampi International Prize for Poetry in 2011. *Now We Can Talk Openly About Men* (Carcenet 2018) was shortlisted for the 2019 Irish Times Poetry Now Award, the Pigott Poetry Prize and the Roehampton Poetry Prize and was an Observer, TLS and Irish Times Book of the Year in 2018. *Mountainy Men*, a narrative poem, was the recipient of a Grants for the Arts Award in 2015. *American Mules* was published in April by Carcanet. She is a Royal Literary Fund Advisory Fellow and an Irish Times poetry critic.

## Reading & Discussion

# John Ennis & Kerry Hardie

Friday 14th 7.30pm **Online**



**John Ennis** has published twenty books of poetry; his latest include *The Carra Days* (2018), *Turangalila-Palestine* (2019) and *Going Home to Wyoming: Later Selected Poems 2000-2020* (2020). He edited *Green Carnations / Glas na Gile* (2020). His poetry has been translated into Spanish, French and Japanese. His work has appeared in fifteen poetry anthologies and is referenced in studies of Irish Literature including Robert Hogan's *Dictionary of Irish Literature* and *The Oxford Companion to Irish Literature*. Works in progress include his poems *Speaking of the Doves* and haiku with Maki Starfield and Kika Hotta.



**Kerry Hardie**'s eighth collection *Where Now Begins* was published by Bloodaxe Books in November, 2020. This is the second collection she has published with Bloodaxe, the previous one, *The Zebra Stood in The Night*, was shortlisted for the Irish Times Award. There are also six previous collections published by the Gallery Press. She has won many prizes (including the Michael Hartnett Award, a Patrick Kavanagh Award, The Suspended Sentence Award, The Laurence O'Shaughnessy Award). She has also written two novels (Harper Collins; Little, Brown), a radio play (RTÉ), short stories, and has just completed another novel. She lives in Kilkenny with her husband Seán, and is a member of Aosdána.

## Reading & Discussion

# Two Pathfinder Women: Moya Cannon & Mary O'Donnell

Friday 14th 9.00pm **Online**



**Moya Cannon** is an Irish poet. Her *Collected Poems* (Carcanet Press, 2021) brings together poems from six previous books, *Oar* (1990), *The Parchment Boat* (1997), *Carrying the Songs* (1907), *Hands* (2011), *Keats Lives* (2015) and *Donegal Tarantella* (2019), more than three decades' work, a poetry of individual poems which compose a memorable, unpredictable sequence of discovery. She was born and grew up in Co. Donegal, spent most of her adult life in Galway and now lives in Dublin. In her poems, history, archaeology, pre-historic art, geology and music figure as gateways to deeper understanding of our mysterious relationship with the natural world and with our past.



**Mary O'Donnell's** work is often cited as key in expanding the horizons of Ireland's traditionally male-dominated literary world. Eight poetry collections include *Unlegendary Heroes*, *Those April Fevers*, and *Massacre of the Birds*. Four novels include *Where They Lie* and the best-selling debut *The Light Makers*, reissued in 2017. Her short fiction collections are *Strong Pagans* (1991), *Storm over Belfast* (2008) and *Empire* (2018). An essay, "My Mother in Drumlin Country", published in *New Hibernia Review* during 2017, was listed among the Notable Essays and Literary Nonfiction of 2017 in *Best American Essays* (Mariner). A member of Aosdana, she holds a PhD in Creative Writing from University College Cork.

## Reading & Discussion

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

Saturday 15th 5.00pm **Online**

At this event, the winning chapbooks of the 2020 Fool for Poetry International Chapbook Competition will be launched with readings from the poets, Felicity Sheehy and Vicky Morris. We will also hear readings from the winners of the Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Competition, Nicholas Hogg, Damen O'Brien and Gerry Boland.



**Felicity Sheehy** has received an Academy of American Poets Prize, the Jane Martin Prize, and a Tennessee Williams Scholarship to the Sewanee Writers' Conference. In 2019 and 2020, she was listed as one of Narrative's 30 below 30 emerging writers.



**Vicky Morris** is a British/Welsh poet based in Sheffield. In 2020, she won the Aurora Prize for Poetry, and was one of ten shortlisted in the Magma Pamphlet Competition. She is the founder of Hive Young Writers, and in 2019 received a Sarah Nulty Award for her work with emerging young writers.





**Nicholas Hogg** was born in Leicester. He is the author of *Show Me the Sky*, nominated for the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, and *Tokyo*, for which he received an Art Omi fellowship in New York. His short stories have won numerous prizes and been broadcast by the BBC, and he was twice shortlisted for the Eric Gregory Award for young poets. His most recent work features in *Ambit* and *The New European*.



**Damen O'Brien** is a multi-award-winning Australian poet, living in Brisbane. His prizes include the Peter Porter Poetry Prize, the Moth Poetry Prize, the Newcastle Poetry Prize and the New Guard Knightville Poetry Prize. In 2021, he won the Café Writers Poetry Competition. Damen's first book of poetry, *Animals With Human Voices*, is forthcoming through Recent Work Press in 2021.



**Gerry Boland** is a Dublin-born author and poet who writes for adults and for children. His poetry books are *Watching Clouds* (Doghouse, 2011) and *In the Space Between* (Arlen House, 2016). He has also published a collection of poems for the young reader, *The Secret Life of Mothers*. He lives in rural north Roscommon.

## Reading & Discussion

# Greg Delanty translates Seán Ó Ríordáin, featuring Simon Ó Faoláin

Saturday 15th 7.30pm [Online](#)



**Seán Ó Ríordáin** (1916-77) was born in the Breac-Ghaeltacht village of Ballyvourney, Co. Cork and moved to Inishcarra, on the outskirts of Cork city at the age of 15. Ó Ríordáin published three collections before his death in 1977, *Eireaball spideoige* (1952), *Brosna* (1964), and *Línte Liombó* (1971). A fourth collection *Tar éis mo bháis* was published posthumously in 1978, and his collected poems in Irish, *Na dánta*, in 2011. There are two substantial translations of his poetry, *Selected Poems*, edited by Frank Sewell (Yale University Press, 2014), and *Apathy Is Out: Selected Poems*, translated by Greg Delanty (Bloodaxe Books / Cló Iar-Chonnacht, 2021).



**Greg Delanty's** latest collection of poems is *No More Time*, and a book of translations from Seán Ó Ríordáin titled *Apathy Is Out*. He has received many awards, including a Guggenheim for poetry. He has just been awarded The David Ferry and Ellen LaForge Poetry Prize for his body of work. He teaches at Saint Michael's College, Vermont and he's a US citizen as well as an Irish citizen. Delanty's papers up to 2010 have been acquired by the National Library of Ireland and from 2010-2015 at University Collage Cork



**Simon Ó Faoláin** has published three books of Irish poetry and two collections of literary translation to Irish to date. Amongst the awards he has won for his writing are the Glen Dimplex Prize, The Strong Prize, the Walter Macken Prize, the Colm Cille Prize and the Foras na Gaeilge Prize. He is Director of An Fhéile Bheag Filíochta, an annual bilingual poetry and arts festival in Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, and editor of the Irish literary journal *Anéas*.

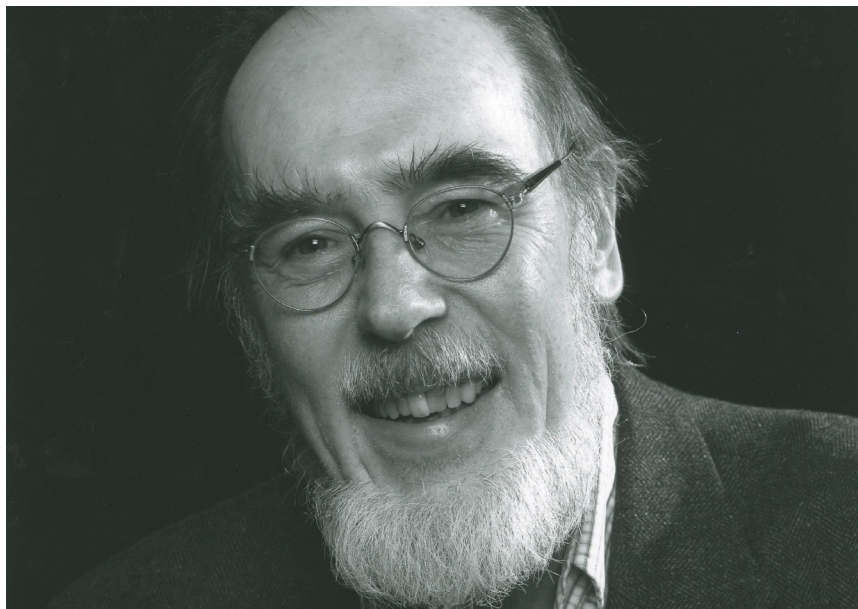
Tá trí leabhar filíochta foilsithe ag **Simon Ó Faoláin** go dtí seo, agus dhá leabhar d'aistriúcháin liteartha. I measc na ngradam atá buaite aige dá chuid scríbhneoireachta tá Duais Glen

Dimplex, Duais Strong, Duais Bhaitéar Uí Mhaicín, Duais Cholm Cille agus Duais Foras na Gaeilge. Tá sé ina stiúrthóir ar An Fhéile Bheag Filíochta, féile dhátheangach ealaíne bhliantúil ar an mBuailtín, Ciarraí Thiar, agus ina bhunaitheoir agus eagarthóir ar an iris liteartha Gaeilge *Anéas*.

## Reading & Discussion

# Two Nature-Loving Poets: Eamon Grennan & Seán Hewitt

Saturday 15th 9.00pm **Online**



**Eamon Grennan**, a Dubliner, taught for many years at Vassar College. His recent collections include *There Now* (Gallery Press, 2016) and *Plainchant* (Gallery Press, 2020). In the past few years he has been writing and directing “plays for voices” for a small Irish theatre group, Curlew Theatre Company. He lives in Poughkeepsie and in Connemara



**Seán Hewitt** is a poet, lecturer and literary critic. His debut collection, *Tongues of Fire* (Cape, 2020), was shortlisted for The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award 2020 and the John Pollard International Poetry Prize 2021. In 2019, he won an Eric Gregory Award, and he is also the winner of the Resurgence Prize for ecopoetry, 2017. His memoir, *All Down Darkness Wide*, will be published by Jonathan Cape (UK) and Penguin Press (USA) in 2022.

# FUNDERS & CREATIVE PARTNERS

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## SPECIAL THANKS

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