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MUNSTER LITERATURE CENTRE
Ionad Litríochta an Deisceart

2023 Cork International Short Story Festival

11TH - 14TH OCTOBER

Readings & Discussions

Anthology Showcases

Journal Showcases

Award Presentations

Video Screenings

corkshortstory.net



Welcome

It's hard to believe now that prior to the year 2000 there was nowhere in the world a dedicated annual short story festival. The short story genre was held in such little esteem authors had great difficulty in placing collections with mainstream publishers. The Munster Literature Centre founded the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Festival in 2000 with the aim of reviving the reputation of Frank O'Connor and sustaining the art form in which he excelled, an art form which had also intrigued the great Cork geniuses of Elizabeth Bowen, Daniel Corkery, Seán Ó Faoláin, and William Trevor. Soon other organisations pitched in across the planet with dedicated (though short-lived) festivals, short-story genre development initiatives, journals with a *grá* for the short story etc. For many years journo hacks would churn out articles on the death of the art form or its undeserved lack of popularity. It's been some years since I've come across that old chestnut. The short story is back in vogue. Today publishers more easily take on short story collections, even if they occasionally, venally, try to hide the fact that they are not novels.

With the revival of Frank O'Connor's reputation deemed to be a mission accomplished we changed the title of the festival to the Cork International Short Story Festival, though O'Connor is still remembered by the annual appointment of a Frank O'Connor International Short Story Fellow, who this year is the Canadian Alexander MacLeod. The festival has featured many masters over the years, Richard Ford, Julia O'Faolain, Bernard MacLaverty, Lydia Davis, Edna O'Brien to name but a few. We have featured well-established authors while they were still unknown such as Yiyun Li and Miranda July, as well as authors well on the way to global fame such as Claire Keegan, Jhumpa Lahiri and Etgar Keret.

This year we have many fabulous debut authors in our line-up, authors whose names I'm confident will be someday as well-known as Li, Lahiri, Keegan and Keret. We feature also this year Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, a senior bilingual Irish author releasing her *Selected Stories*, marvellous mid-career writers such as Thomas Morris and Kim Fu and a writer such as Gan Ye, who with a reputation developed in her native Chinese, begins all over again in English. As a nation of emigrants, we celebrate this year at the festival the diaspora of others as well as those who choose to come live on our shores. Thomas Morris, Fija Callaghan and Radhika Iyer are writers who have chosen to come write here. Inga Balchaites was born here of parents we used to call the 'New Irish'. We look forward to the emergence of many new Irish writers in coming years with names not to be found in 20th century Irish phone books.

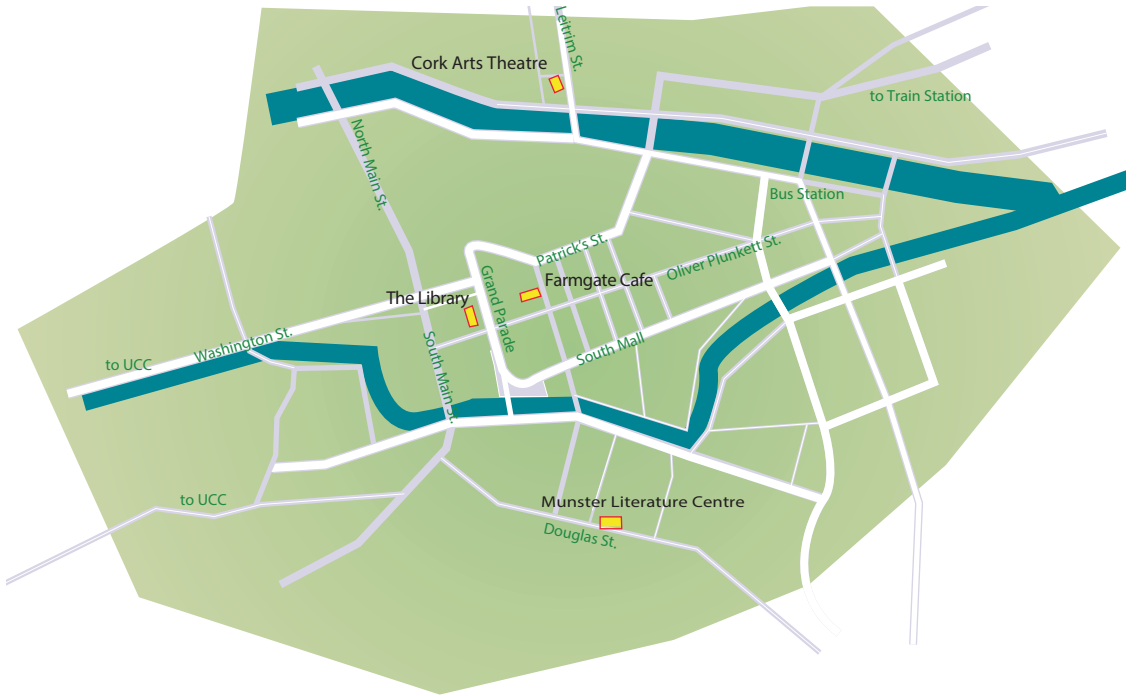
As a festival charged with the responsibility of developing and sustaining a particular literary genre, we devote much space to emerging authors alongside the established. The number of journals and anthologies published out of Cork is indicative of a literary scene which is thriving so much better than in the year 2000 and we thank our partners associated with *The Four Faced Liar*, *From the Well* and *HOWL New Irish Writing* for curating events which show the breadth of talent in this part of Ireland. We are featuring vintage RTÉ documentaries from the 60s and 70s which demonstrate how essential and significant publicly funded broadcasting can be, at a time when market-driven vested interests will question that truth.

We present many events for free and never charge more than a fiver for other events – all to make the festival accessible to persons of all socio-economic backgrounds. Our venues are wheelchair friendly. We encourage audience participation from across all of society.

Patrick Cotter
Festival Director



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.corkshortstory.net until Sunday 31st September. Bookings by cheque to the Munster Literature Centre will also be accepted up to this date. Thereafter, all purchases must be made at the Cork Arts Theatre in person, by phone (021 450 5624) or online (www.corkartstheatre.com). Admission may be blocked after an event begins. Refunds will be given only if an event is cancelled.

Munster Literature Centre | Ionad Litríocht an Deiscirt

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

Phone: +353 (0)21 4322396

Email: info@munsterlit.ie

Pay through credit card/PayPal at

www.corkshortstory.net

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#CorkStoryFest23

Programme Outline

Wednesday 11th - Saturday 14th October

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#CorkStoryFest23

Wednesday 11th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 8

Two Edna O'Brien Interviews (videos)

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 10

Southword Showcase

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

8.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 12

Órfhlaith Foyle & Beverly Parayno

(moderated by Lucy Holme)

9.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 14

Alexander MacLeod

(moderated by Billy O'Callaghan)

Thursday 12th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 16

Kate O'Brien & William Trevor Interviews (videos)

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 18

From the Well Showcase

8.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 20

Thomas Morris & Niamh Mulvey

(moderated by Danny Denton)

9.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 22

Leon Craig & Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

(moderated by James O'Leary)

Programme Outline

Wednesday 11th - Saturday 14th October

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#CorkStoryFest23

Friday 13th

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

HOWL New Irish Writing Showcase

(moderated by Róisín Leggett Bohan)

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

The Four Faced Liar Showcase

(moderated by Patrick Holloway)

8.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 28

Sheila Armstrong & Alice Jolly

(moderated by Lauren O'Donovan)

9.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 30

Sidik Fofana & Gothataone Moeng

(moderated by Beverly Parayno)

Saturday 14th

3.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Free, unticketed page 32

Ó Faoláin & Flash Fiction Prizewinners

4.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 34

Neil Campbell & Fergus Cronin

(moderated by Patrick Holloway)

8.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 36

Yan Ge & Ada Zhang

(moderated by Beverly Parayno)

9.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 38

Moira Fowley & Kim Fu

(moderated by Kate Moore)

Video Presentation

Two Edna O'Brien Interviews

Wednesday 11th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free




Writers of Today was a weekly RTÉ series presenting interviews with well-known Irish writers. This episode with Edna O'Brien was broadcast on 25 March 1970 and presented by Niall Sheridan.

My Own Place was an RTÉ series in which prominent Irish personalities talked about a locality of special interest to them. This edition, 'My Own Place: Edna O'Brien Comes Back To County Clare' was broadcast on 3 December 1975. The narrator is Andy O'Mahony. Writer Edna O'Brien, whose books were once banned in Ireland, meets the people who at one time criticised her.

SOUTHWORD

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Southword 38
New International Writing
Kit de Waal, Deborah Levy, Matthew Sweeney, Yoko Tawada, Van Booy

Southword 39
New International Writing
Kim Addonizio, August Kleinz, Yiyun Li, Thomas Lyr, Thomas M., Ron Rash

Southword 40
New International Writing
Sandra Beasley, David...

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New International Writing
Maram al-Masri, Theo Dorgan, Carlo Gillier, Jennifer...

Southword 42
New International Writing
Alan McMonagle, Kim Moore, Helen Mort, Mary O'Donnell, Mary O'Malley, Pdraig Rooney

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New International Writing
Lucy Sweeney Byrne, Ben Ferris, Liz Hogg

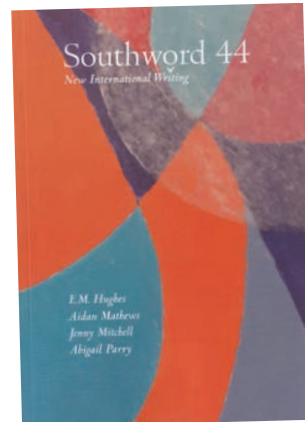
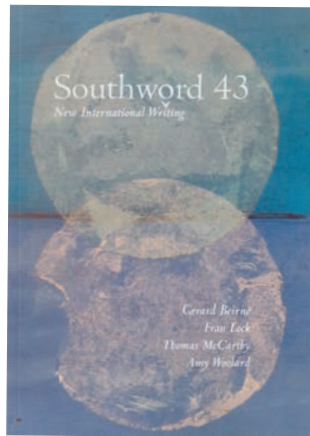
Journal Showcase

Southword Showcase

Moderated by Patrick Cotter

Wednesday 11th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free

Southword is a print literary journal published twice a year by the Munster Literature Centre. *Southword* has published the likes of Kim Addonizio, Tess Gallagher, Vona Groarke, Helen Ivory, James Lasdun, Medbh McGuckian, Haruki Murakami, Ron Rash and Colm Tóibín. Here we present three fiction writers based in Ireland whose stories have appeared in the two most recent issues of *Southword*.



Deirdre Crowley is an artist and writer from West Cork, Ireland. Her stories have been published in *The Irish Times*, *The Ogham Stone*, *The Southern Star*, and The Well Short Story Competition. In 2017, she was one of twelve writers in The Sunday Business Post Short Story Award Shortlist; 2018 Fish Memoir Prize Longlist; 2019 Seán Ó Faoláin International Short Story Competition Longlist. In 2022 she was published by the Bournemouth Writing Prize and *Southword*.





J.P. Garvey began to send out stories and poems to competitions when Covid struck. Since then, he has been shortlisted and published in 'Poets meet Politics' and longlisted for the Nature and Place Poetry Competition. He placed 2nd and 1st (2021, 2022) in I.O.'s Annual Short Story Competition and 2nd last year

in the Seán Ó Faoláin International Short Story Competition. He is currently putting together a collection which he hopes to publish soon.

Patrick Holloway is the winner of The Bath Short Story Prize, The Molly Keane Creative Writing Competition, The Flash 500 Prize, the Allingham Fiction Prize, among others. He was second in The Raymond Carver Short Story contest, was highly commended for the Manchester Fiction Prize and shortlisted for many prizes including The Bath Short Story Prize, Moth Short Story Prize, Bath Flash Fiction Prize, and the prestigious Alpine Fellowship for Fiction. His work has appeared in *Southword*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Irish Times*, *The Irish Independent*, *Carve*, *The London Magazine*, *The Moth*, and many others. He is an editor of the literary journal, *The Four Faced Liar*.



Reading & Discussion

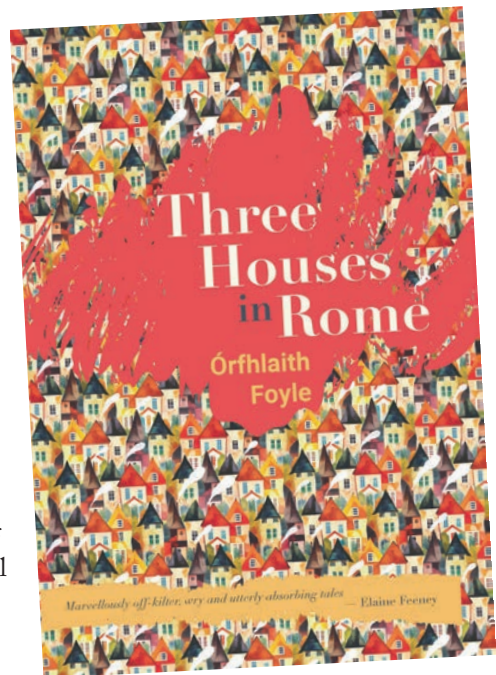
Órfhlaith Foyle & Beverly Parayno Moderated by Lucy Holme

Wednesday 11th 8.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



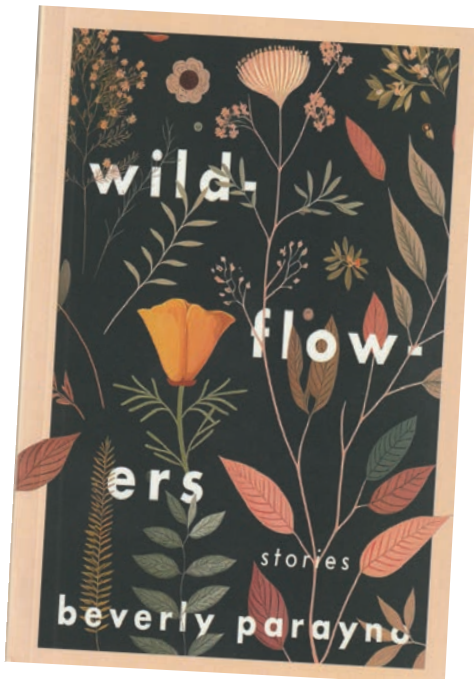
“Marvellously off-kilter, wry and utterly absorbing tales—reminiscent of Lucia Berlin, but with her own truly original spark. Foyle is a natural storyteller.”
— Elaine Feeney

Órfhlaith Foyle is a short story writer, poet, dramatist and lives in Galway. Doire Press will publish her third collection *Three Houses in Rome* in September 2023. She wrote and directed the radio dramas *May's End* and *How I Murdered Lucrezia*, both adapted from her short fiction. Both received full BAI funding and premiered on Newstalk Radio in October 2021 and 2023. Órfhlaith received a full Arts Council Agility Award 2021 to complete a first draft of *Three Houses in Rome* and was awarded a full Arts Council Literary Bursary in 2022 for her next work.





Beverly Parayno was raised in East San José, California by immigrant parents from the Philippines. Her work appears in *Narrative Magazine*, *Bellingham Review*, *The Rumpus*, *Warscapes*, *Huizache*, and *Southword*. Her work has been translated into Mandarin and published by World Literature. Parayno is the author of the story collection *Wildflowers* (PAWA Press, 2023). She earned a BA from San José State University, an MA from University College Cork, and an MFA from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She lives and works in Cameron Park, California as a development professional and animal communicator and facilitates the Cameron Park Library Writers Workshop.



“This standout collection is honest and tough, and though Parayno’s characters don’t have it easy, they never settle or surrender. They fight toward an uncertain future, leaving us with unforgettably heartbreaking stories along the way.”

— Lysley Tenorio

Reading & Discussion

Alexander MacLeod

Moderated by Billy O'Callaghan

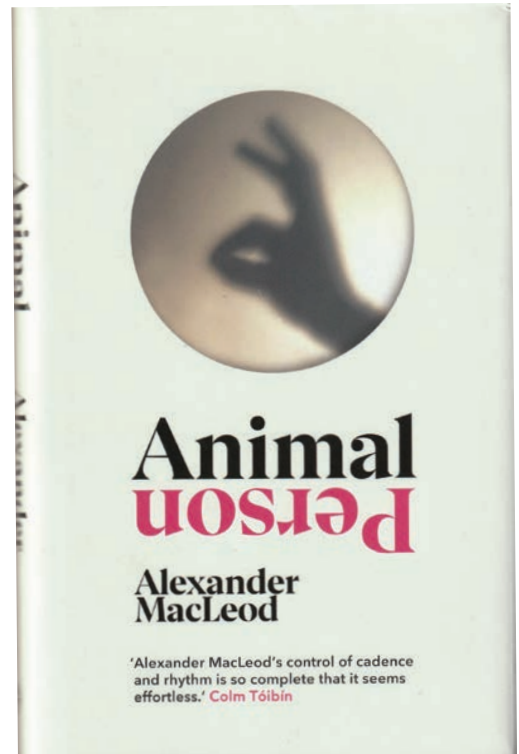
Wednesday 11th 9.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



“MacLeod’s stories seemed startlingly strange, until I realised they were about my own life. A book full of truth, sadness and mercy.”

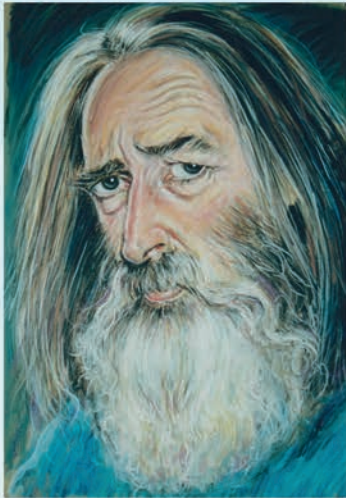
— Ellen O'Malley Dunlop

Alexander MacLeod's work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *The Guardian*, and *The Globe and Mail*. His first collection of short stories, *Light Lifting*, was named a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, The Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award, and the Commonwealth Book Prize. He is a past winner of the O. Henry Prize, and in 2022 his most recent collection, *Animal Person*, was recognized as a “Book of the Year” by *The New Yorker*, *The Irish Times*, *The Globe and Mail* and CBC Books. He lives in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia and teaches at Saint Mary's University.



GREGORY O'DONOGHUE

INTERNATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION



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

1ST PRIZE: €2,000

GUEST READING AT THE CORK INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL WITH FOUR-NIGHT HOTEL STAY AND FULL BOARD; PUBLISHED IN SOUTHWORD; FEATURED ON THE SOUTHWORD POETRY PODCAST

2ND PRIZE: €500

PUBLISHED IN SOUTHWORD

3RD PRIZE: €250

PUBLISHED IN SOUTHWORD

TEN RUNNERS-UP: €50

PUBLISHED IN SOUTHWORD

DEADLINE: 30 NOVEMBER 2023

GUIDELINES: WWW.MUNSTERLIT.IE

Video Presentation

Kate O'Brien & William Trevor Interviews

Thursday 12th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



Self Portrait profiled writers, poets, actors, and dramatists in a series of intimate studio monologues which provided a unique opportunity to hear and see significant individuals presenting themselves in their own

words and voices, enriching their presentations with personal stories and examples of their work. In this episode, first broadcast by RTÉ in 1962, Kate O'Brien talks about her life and work.

Writer in Profile was a weekly RTÉ series presenting interviews with well-known Irish writers. This episode with William Trevor was broadcast on 24 October 1976. The presenter is Jack White and this was the final episode of the series.





Listen at
www.southword.buzzsprout.com
or wherever you
get your podcasts

The Southword Poetry Podcast, produced by the Munster Literature Centre, started in 2022 with ten episodes presented by Sarah Byrne. Featured poets included Paul Muldoon, Jenna Clake, Ishion Hutchinson, Ciaran O'Driscoll, Shangyang Fang, Molly Twomey. Among the poets reading from Southword were Dermot Bolger, Dante Micheaux and Amy Woolard.

In 2023, ten episodes presented by Clíona Ní Ríordáin will feature Gail McConnell, Deborah Paradez, Paddy Bushe, Matthew Dickman, Abigail Parry, John W. Sexton, Martín Espada, Thomas McCarthy, Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh and Paisley Rekdal.

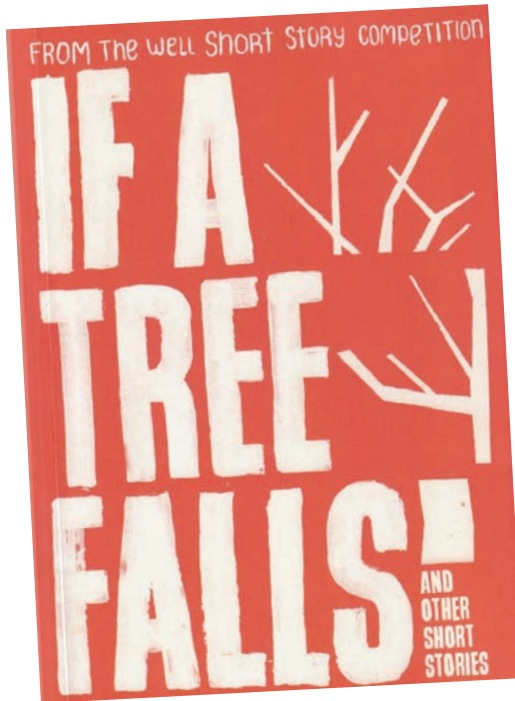
The Munster Literature Centre is a grateful recipient of funding from the Arts Council of Ireland and the Arts Office of Cork City Council



Anthology Showcase

From the Well Showcase

Thursday 12th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



If A Tree Falls is the nineteenth edition of this annual short story anthology featuring winning entries to the From the Well Short Story Competition run by Cork County Council and Library Service.

Inga Balchaites is a Cork-born author currently studying law at UCC. 'The Promised Land' is her first publication. When not in college, she enjoys reading and agonising over her manuscripts.



Maeve Keane is a writer and teacher from Cork and has an MA in Creative Writing from UL. Maeve is a recent recipient of an Arts Council Agility Award and was a participant in The Stinging Fly Summer School 2023. Her work features in several journals: see www.maevekeane.com.



Originally from Cork City, **Paddy O'Connor** has lived in Castletownbere for more than forty years. He finds inspiration in the sea and the Beara landscape. He writes stories, essays and poetry and enjoys swimming, boating, gardening and hill walking.

Nollaig Rowan (Dublin and Sherkin Island, Cork) has published in Irish and UK journals and broadcast on RTÉ national radio. Her story 'You' became the award-winning short film 'How Was Your Day,' 2016. This is her seventh year to be included in the *From The Well* anthology.



Alexandra Tyndale began writing in 2019. She has had three stories included in the *From the Well* anthology, was published in the *Irish Independent's New Irish Writing* in 2020, won Creative Bandon's short story competition in 2021 and was highly commended in Hammond House's International short story competition in 2022.

Reading & Discussion

Thomas Morris & Niamh Mulvey Moderated by Danny Denton

Thursday 12th 8.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Thomas Morris's debut story collection *We Don't Know What We're Doing* won the Wales Book of the Year Award, the Rhys Davies Trust Fiction Award and a Somerset Maugham Award. His stories have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and published and anthologised in *Zoetrope*, *Best European Fiction 2018* and *The Penguin Book of the Contemporary British Short Story*. His latest collection is *Open Up* (Faber and Faber, 2023). He lives in Dublin, where he is Editor-at-Large at *The Stinging Fly*.

“Such a fierce and tender suite of stories – young boys and lost young men, the psychic effects of poverty and deprived childhoods, and the struggle to love well. Plus a standout story about seahorses. Welsh wizardry from Thomas Morris.”
— Lucy Caldwell

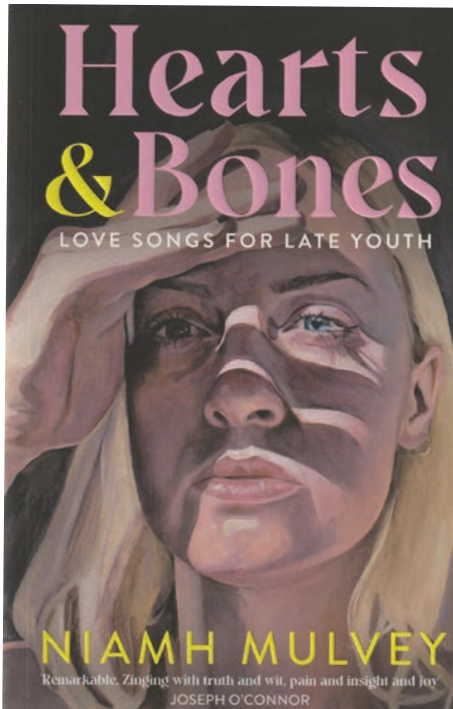


PHOTOGRAPHER: KATE ELLIOTT



Niamh Mulvey is a writer from Kilkenny. Her first book, *Hearts and Bones: Love Songs for Late Youth* was published in 2022 by Picador. It was described by the *Irish Independent* as ‘astute, surprising and wholly entertaining’ and has been shortlisted for the John McGahern Award. Niamh’s work has been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *Southword*, *Banshee*, *Little Acorns* and many other places. Her debut novel *The Amendments* will be published

by Picador in Spring 2024. Niamh is also an experienced editor and publisher, and now works as a freelance writing coach, editor and teacher.



“*In Hearts and Bones, Niamh Mulvey demonstrates that she is a brilliant anatomist of shame and longing. This is a book to relish.*”

— Tomiwa Owolade

Reading & Discussion

Leon Craig & Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

Moderated by James O'Leary

Thursday 12th 9.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

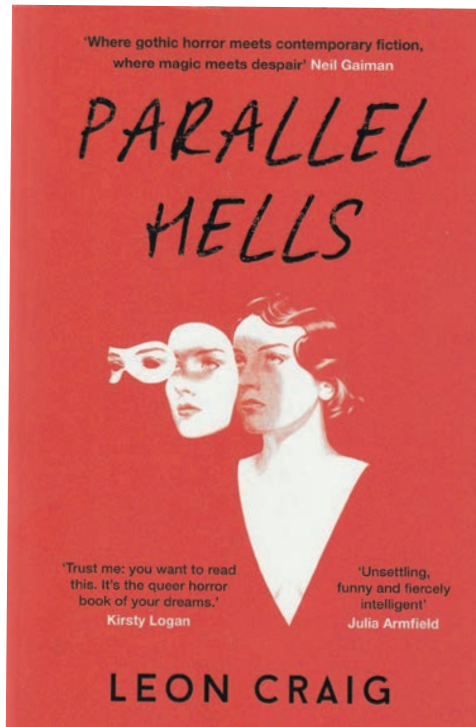
PHOTOGRAPHER: JAN RADTKE



Leon Craig is a writer and editor from London, now based in Berlin. Her gothic short story collection *Parallel Hells* was published by Sceptre Books and she is currently working on her first novel. Leon's fiction has also appeared in *The White Review*, *The London Magazine*, the *Best British Short Stories 2022* anthology and the *Queer Life*, *Queer Love* anthology. Her criticism has been published by the *TLS*, *Literary Review* and *Another Gaze* among others. @Leon_c_c

"... where gothic horror meets contemporary fiction, where magic meets despair, and where all the cool queer kids hang out to show off their tattoos before they get swallowed by the night."

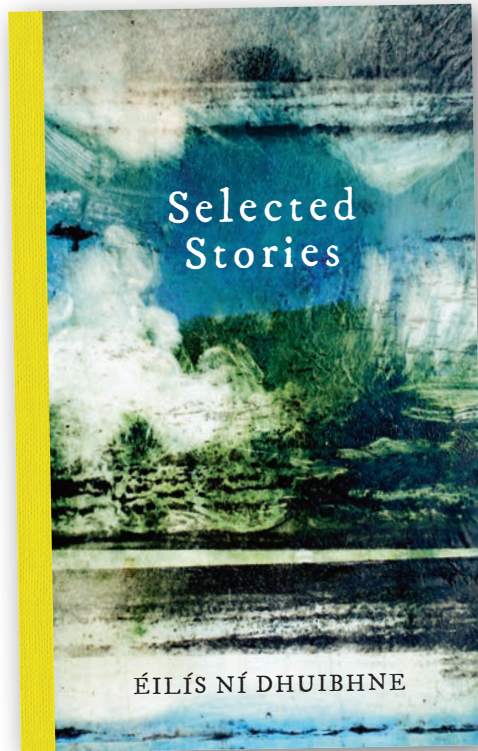
— Neil Gaiman





“A masterful storyteller, tonally adept at pivoting from searing and political, to comic and moving in a matter of pages.”
— Sinéad Gleeson

Éilís Ní Dhuibhne was born in Dublin. Author of more than thirty books, her work includes *The Dancers Dancing*, *The Shelter of Neighbours*, and *Fox, Swallow, Scarecrow*. Her most recent are *Little Red and Other Stories* (Blackstaff 2020), *Fáinne Geal an Lae* (Cló Iar Chonnacht 2023) and *Selected Stories* (2023). She has published eight collections of short stories and has been the recipient of many literary awards, most recently the Pen Award for an Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature, and a Hennessy Hall of Fame Award. In Autumn 2020 she held the Burns Scholarship at Boston College. She is a member of Aosdána, and President of the Folklore of Ireland Society.



Journal Showcase

HOWL New Irish Writing Showcase

Moderated by Róisín Leggett Bohan

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



HOWL New Irish Writing is a literary platform committed to showcasing the best of Irish writing, both from home and abroad. Co-founders Lauren O'Donovan and Róisín Leggett Bohan understand firsthand the diverse and borderless nature of Irish creativity, having spent significant time outside of Ireland themselves before returning to settle in the county of their birth, Cork. Four fiction writers will read their stories from *HOWL New Irish Writing '22*.

Fija Callaghan has been featured on podcasts, recognised by international short story competitions, and nominated for Best of the Net. Her stories can be found in venues like *Gingerbread House*, *Mythic Magazine*, *Corvid Queen*, and elsewhere. Originally from the Cascadia region, she now lives in Dublin, Ireland with her books.





Paul Duffy is an author and archaeologist living in the Wicklow Mountains. Paul's short fiction has appeared in *The Irish Times* and has been broadcast on RTÉ Radio 1. His debut novel *Run with the Hare, Hunt with the Hound* won a silver medal in the Foreword Indies Awards 2022.

Conor Montague is from Galway. Currently based in London, Conor facilitates workshops for London Writers Elective and is resident playwright at the Irish Cultural Centre, Hammersmith. His debut collection of short fiction, *Capital Vices*, will be published by Reflex Press in Autumn 2023.



Mary Morrissy is the author of three novels, *Mother of Pearl*, *The Pretender* and *The Rising of Bella Casey* and two collections of short stories, *A Lazy Eye* and *Prosperity Drive*. Her fourth novel, *Penelope Unbound*, has just been published with Banshee Press. A member of Aosdána, she was formerly the Associate Director of Creative Writing at UCC.

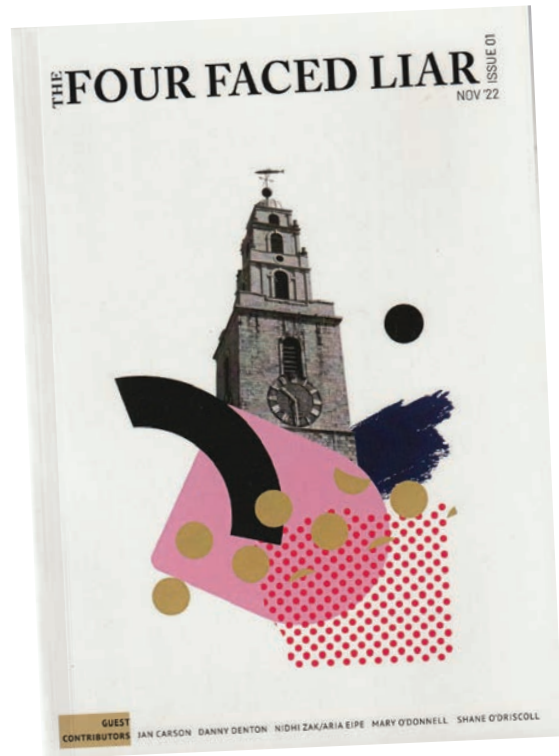
Journal Showcase

The Four Faced Liar Showcase

Moderated by Patrick Holloway

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

The Four Faced Liar publishes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and visual art from Ireland and beyond. This Cork-based print literary journal is edited by Patrick Holloway, Rosie Morris, Stephen Brophy & Lucy Holme. At this event, four authors will read their stories from issue 1.



Dean Fee is a writer and editor based in Donegal. His work has appeared in *The Stinging Fly*, *The Dublin Review*, *The Four Faced Liar* and more. He is the managing editor of *The Pig's Back* literary journal.



Aileen Hunt is a Dublin writer of fiction and creative nonfiction. Her work has appeared in various online and print publications, including *Craft*, *Hippocampus*, *The Ogham Stone*, and *Flashback Fiction*. She is a Pushcart Prize nominee and is currently working on her first book. More at aileen-hunt.com and [@HuntAileen](https://twitter.com/HuntAileen).

Caitríona Lane is a bilingual writer from Dublin, now living in Connemara. In 2023 she was shortlisted for the Eavan Boland Emerging Poet Award. Éigse Éireann selected her Irish language poetry for their 2022 Céadlínite series. Caitríona's work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *HOWL*, *The Storms*, *Aneas*, *Comhar*, *Feasta*, *The Echo*, *Galway Review*, and other journals.



Eamon McGuinness is from Dublin. His fiction has appeared in *The Best Short Stories 2023: The O. Henry Prize Winners*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Four Faced Liar* and elsewhere. He has won an O. Henry Prize for fiction, the Michael McLaverty, Wild Atlantic Words and Maria Edgeworth short story competitions.

Reading & Discussion

Sheila Armstrong & Alice Jolly

Moderated by Lauren O'Donovan

Friday 13th 8.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



PHOTOGRAPHER: RUTH MEDJBER

“Dark, devilishly well written and full of atmosphere, How to Gut a Fish is one of the most original and affecting short story collections I’ve read in years.”
— Jan Carson



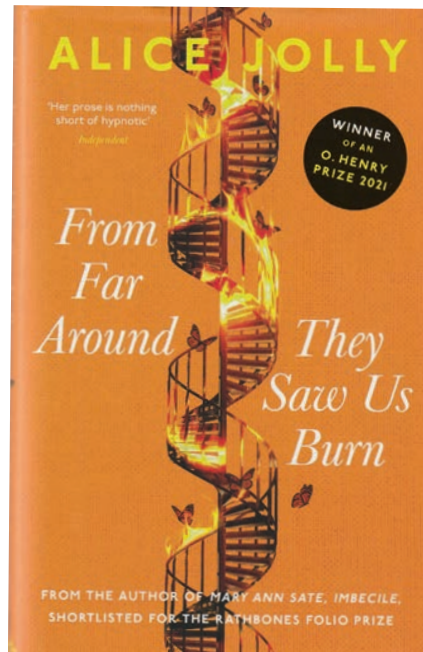
Sheila Armstrong is a writer and editor from the north west of Ireland. She is the author of two books: *How To Gut A Fish* (2022), a collection of short stories, and *Falling Animals* (2023), her debut novel. Her writing has been listed for the Society of Authors Awards, the Kate O'Brien Award, the Irish Book Awards, and the Edge Hill Prize. She is an Arts Council Next Generation Artist.



Alice Jolly received an O. Henry Award in 2020 (top twenty short stories in the US). Her most recent novel *Mary Ann Sate, Imbecile* was published in 2018 by Unbound and was selected as a Walter Scott Prize recommended novel. Alice has also won the Pen Ackerley Prize for memoir and the V.S. Pritchett Memorial Prize (awarded by The Royal Society of Literature) for one of her short stories. Her short stories have appeared in numerous publications including *Prospect*, *Ploughshares*, *The Manchester Review*, *Litro*, *Southword* and *Fairlight*. She teaches creative writing at Oxford University.

“In these stories, she takes on the bored and the lonely, even the perverts, the awkward and the bad. Where a less wise writer might have produced monsters, Jolly, with tenderness, finds their souls.”

— Lara Pawson



Reading & Discussion

Sidik Fofana & Gothataone Moeng

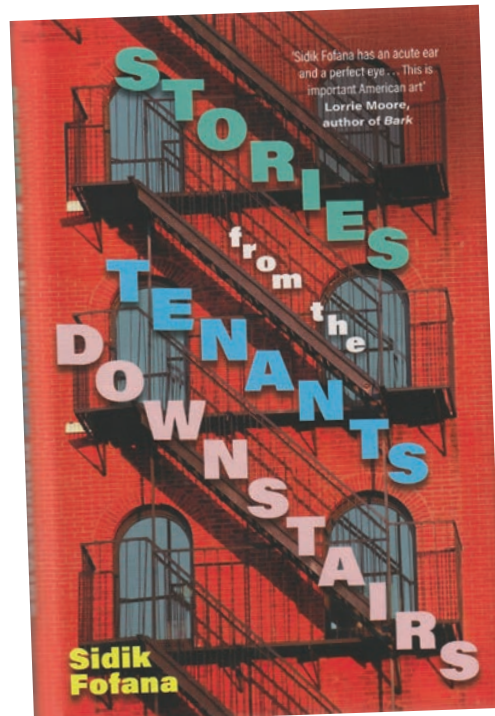
Moderated by Beverly Parayno

Friday 13th 9.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



“... a beautiful blueprint for the gentrification story: let it be bold, let it honor the complexities of those who are struggling to hold on ... The voices of the residents of Banneker Terrace linger and echo long after the last page.”
— Deesha Philyaw

Sidik Fofana is a graduate of NYU’s MFA program and a public school teacher in Brooklyn. *Stories from the Tenants Downstairs* was inspired by the vernacular of Harlem as well as his experiences as a public school teacher. His work has appeared in the *Sewanee Review* and *Granta*. He was also named a fellow at the Center for Fiction in 2018. He is a big Hip Hop fan.

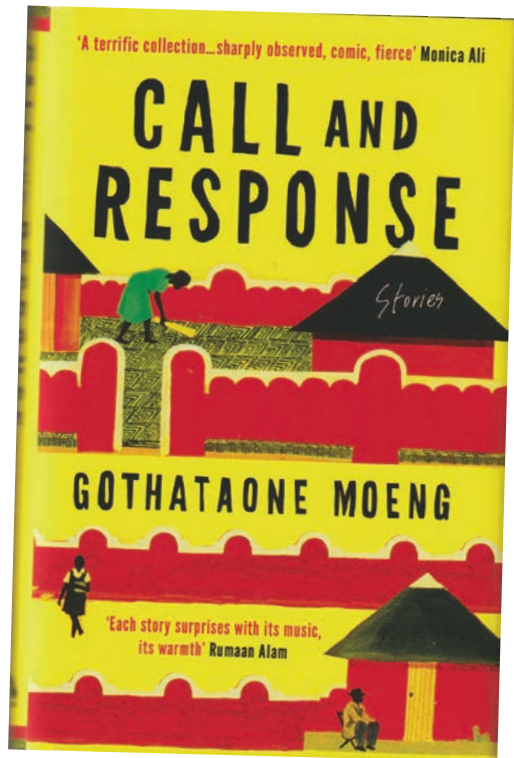




Gothataone Moeng is the author of the short story collection *Call and Response* (Viking & Oneworld, 2023), and is a 2023-2024 Carol Houck Smith Fiction Fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Formerly a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and a 2018-2020 Stegner Fellow in Fiction at Stanford University, her writing has also appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Ploughshares*, the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *American Short Fiction*, *One Story*, *A Public Space* and the *Oxford American*, amongst others. She holds an MFA Creative Writing (Fiction) from the University of Mississippi. She was born in Serowe, Botswana.

“Call and Response teems with life’s twists, surprises and shocks and reminds us of our shared humanity. Moeng is generous in detail and humour. She is an exciting voice to join in African conversations.”

— Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi

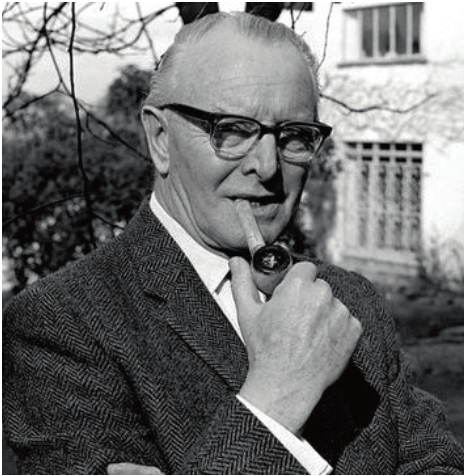


Prize Readings

Ó Faoláin & Flash Fiction Prizewinners

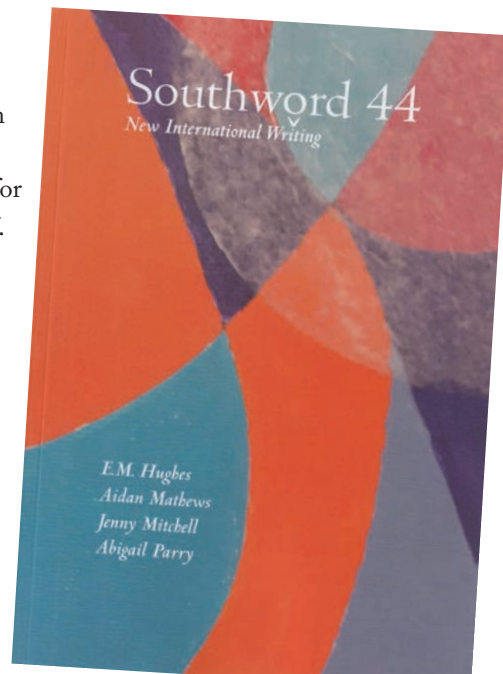
Saturday 14th 3.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

Seán Ó Faoláin International Short Story Competition



The Seán Ó Faoláin International Short Story Prize is awarded to the best single story entered in competition from anywhere in the world. The first prize is €2000, a featured reading at the Cork International Short Story Festival (with four-night hotel stay and full board) and publication in *Southword*. This occasion is an opportunity to hear the winning story.

Every year we hold a free-to-enter flash fiction competition and poetry competition exclusively for subscribers to *Southword*. This year's flash winners will read their stories from issue 44, published in July this year.



Southword Subscriber Flash Fiction Competition



1st Prize

Adrian Martin is 50 and lives in Dublin. He has been writing fiction for several years and is currently working on his first novel. He has had several short stories published and this is his first competition success.

2nd Prize

Lauren O'Donovan is a writer from Cork. In 2023, she won the Cúirt New Writing Prize in Poetry and was shortlisted for Listowel Writers' Week Collection Award, Poetry Business Pamphlet Competition, and the Fish Poetry Prize. Lauren is co-founder of Lime Square Poets and *HOWL New Irish Writing*.



3rd Prize

Radhika Iyer has published an eBook collection of short stories entitled *Why Are You Here?* and three of her pieces have aired on RTÉ Radio 1. She received the Agility Award in September 2022, and is the writer in residence at the An Tàin Arts Centre, Dundalk from July-September 2023.

Reading & Discussion

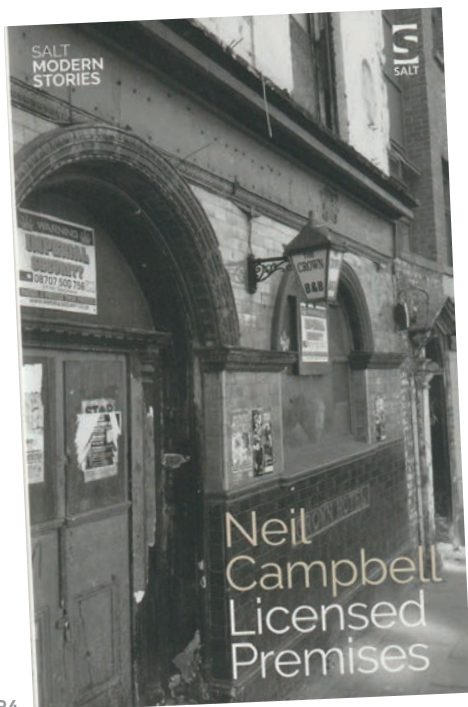
Neil Campbell & Fergus Cronin

Moderated by Patrick Holloway

Saturday 14th 4.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

“... these stories could stand as a record of our time as the work of Gaskell, Dickens, and Mayhew did to a previous century. If you want to understand our modern cities and modern work, let Neil Campbell be your guide.”

— Richard Clegg



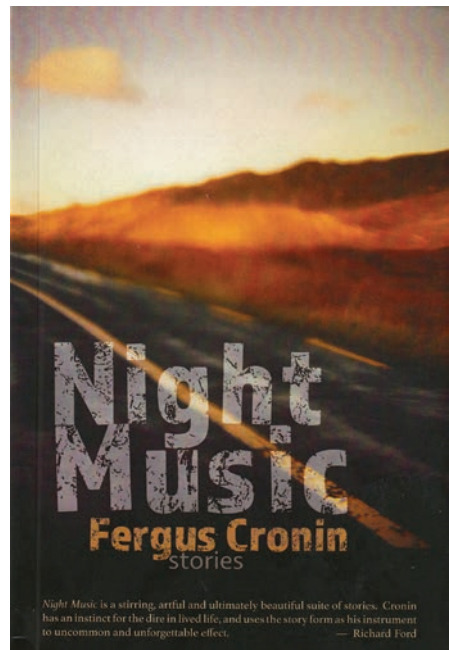
Neil Campbell's fifth collection of stories *Licensed Premises* is out now. From Manchester, England, he has appeared four times in the annual anthology of *Best British Short Stories*. He has published three novels, five collections of short stories, two poetry chapbooks and a poetry collection, as well as appearing in numerous magazines and anthologies.



“Fergus Cronin’s stories are rich and strange. Like updated folk tales or country songs, they’re filled with a devastatingly oddball humour, perfectly in step with their loner protagonists’ life journeys.”

— Martina Evans

Fergus Cronin divides his time between his native Dublin and North Connemara. He holds a degree in Chemical Engineering and for a number of years he has been committed full time to writing. He completed an MPhil degree in Creative Writing in TCD in 2014. His stories have been published in *Surge* (a Brandon Books collection of new writing from Ireland), *The Irish Times*, *The Manchester Review* and *The Lonely Crowd*. He was awarded the Maria Edgeworth Short Story Prize in 2022. *Night Music*, published in 2023 by Doire Press, is his first published collection of short stories.



Reading & Discussion - Writing the Asian Diaspora

Yan Ge & Ada Zhang

Moderated by Beverly Parayno

Saturday 14th 8.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

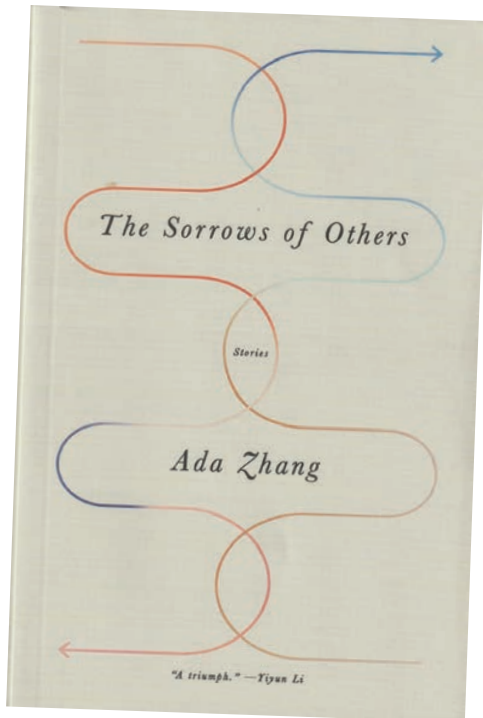


PHOTOGRAPHER: JOANNA MILLINGTON

“If a dark angel were to wake from a dream-filled sleep and write its visions, this collection is what it would look like. Yan Ge explores the big themes – grief, love, being, belonging, and most of all, departing – with profundity, mischief and gut-savage intelligence.”
— Mia Gallagher

Yan Ge was born in Sichuan, China in 1984. She is a fiction writer in both Chinese and English, who has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Mao Dun Literature Prize (Best Young Writer), and was named by *People’s Literature* magazine as one of twenty future literature masters in China. Her work has been translated into English, French and German, among other languages. She has an MFA in creative writing from the university of East Anglia where she was the recipient of UEA International Award 2018/19. *Elsewhere* (Faber and Faber, 2023) is her English-language debut.





Ada Zhang is a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 honoree and a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop. Her short stories have appeared in *A Public Space*, *McSweeney's*, *American Short Fiction*, and elsewhere. She is currently the James C. McCreight Fiction Fellow at the University of Wisconsin. *The Sorrows of Others* is her first book.

"The relationships Ada Zhang's characters navigate are full of quiet ardor and tangled duties; at the heart of each story is an urgent, private world rendered with care and skill."

— Arna Bontemps Hemenway

Reading & Discussion - Queer Fabulism

Moira Fowley & Kim Fu

Moderated by Kate Moore

Saturday 14th 9.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

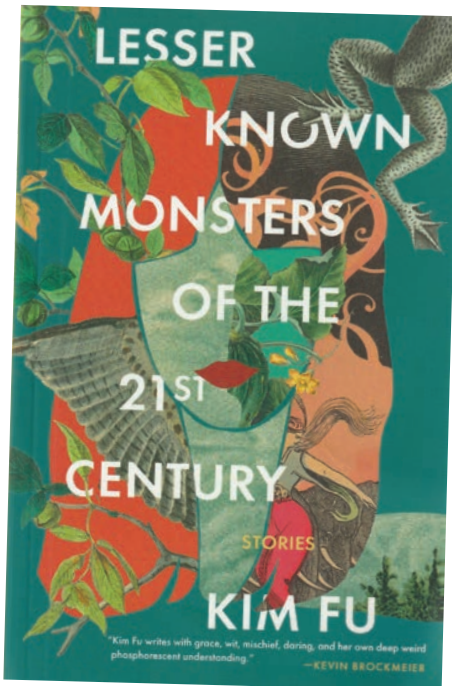
Moira Fowley is an author, tarot reader, and part-time witch. She is half-Irish, half-French and lives in Dublin with her two children. Moira is the author of three critically acclaimed YA novels which have been shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Irish Book Awards, and the Children's Books Ireland Awards, as well as being nominated for the Carnegie Medal and winning the School Library Association of Ireland Great Reads Award. Her first book for adults, *Eyes Guts Throat Bones*, a collection of short stories about (queer, female) bodies and the end of the world, is published by W&N/Orion.



“Fowley’s writing is joyous and poetic ... Contemporary gothic short stories at their best, Eyes Guts Throat Bones is written so beautifully that even the most squeamish reader would be sucked in by it.”
— Mslexia



Kim Fu is the author of two novels, a collection of poetry, and most recently, the story collection *Lesser Known Monsters of the 21st Century* (2022), winner of the Pacific Northwest Book Award and the Danuta Gleed Literary Award, and a finalist for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, the Ignite Awards, and the Shirley Jackson Awards. Stories in this collection have been selected for *Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy* and *Best of the Net*, featured on Levar Burton Reads and Selected Shorts, and optioned for television and film.



“Each story is spectacularly smart, hybrid in genre, and bold with intention. The monsters here are not only fantastical figures brought to life in hyperreality but also the strangest parts of the human heart.”

— Lucy Tan



Moderators

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*. *Sonic White Poise*, his third full-length collection, was published by Dedalus in 2021.

Danny Denton is a writer from Cork, and lectures on writing at UCC. His first novel, *The Earlie King & The Kid In Yellow*, was published by Granta Books in 2018. His second novel, *All Along The Echo*, was published by Atlantic Books in 2022.

Patrick Holloway is the winner of The Molly Keane Creative Writing Competition, The Flash 500 Prize and the Allingham Fiction Prize. His work has appeared in *Southword*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Irish Times*, *The Irish Independent*, *Carve*, *The London Magazine*, *The Moth*, and many others. He is an editor of the literary journal, *The Four Faced Liar*.

Lucy Holme is a writer and mother who lives in Cork, Ireland. Her poems feature in *The Stinging Fly*, *The London Magazine*, *Southword*, *Wild Court*, and *Poetry Wales* amongst others. Her debut chapbook, *Temporary Stasis*, which was shortlisted for The Patrick Kavanagh Award, was published by Broken Sleep Books in August 2022.

Róisín Leggett Bohan is co-founder and co-editor of *HOWL New Irish Writing*. She writes poetry and prose. She has published in *Magma Poetry*, *New Irish Writing*, *Poetry Ireland's ePub*, *Southword*, *Amsterdam Quarterly* and elsewhere. Róisín is a Poetry Ireland Introductions poet, and recipient of an Arts Council Award and Cork City Artist Bursary.


Kate Moore is a writer from Tralee, now based in Cork City. Her theatre work has been featured in the Everyman, Cork Arts Theatre and Siamsa Tíre, and has been published in *The Irish Times* and *Quare Cork*. She was a 2022 Children's Books Ireland Raising Voices Fellow and has read her work at Dublin Book Festival. She is currently working on her first novel.

Billy O'Callaghan was born in Cork in 1974, and is the author of four short story collections, including *The Boatman* (finalist for the 2016 Costa Short Story Award). He is the winner of a Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Award for the short story. His latest novel is *The Paper Man* (Jonathan Cape, 2023).

Lauren O'Donovan is a writer from Cork. In 2023, she won the Cúirt New Writing Prize in Poetry and was shortlisted for Listowel Writers' Week Collection Award, Poetry Business Pamphlet Competition, and the Fish Poetry Prize. Lauren is co-founder of Lime Square Poets and *HOWL New Irish Writing*.

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

Beverly Parayno was raised in East San José, California by immigrant parents from the Philippines. She is the author of the story collection *Wildflowers* (PAWA Press, 2023). She lives and works in Cameron Park, California as a development professional and animal communicator and facilitates the Cameron Park Library Writers Workshop.



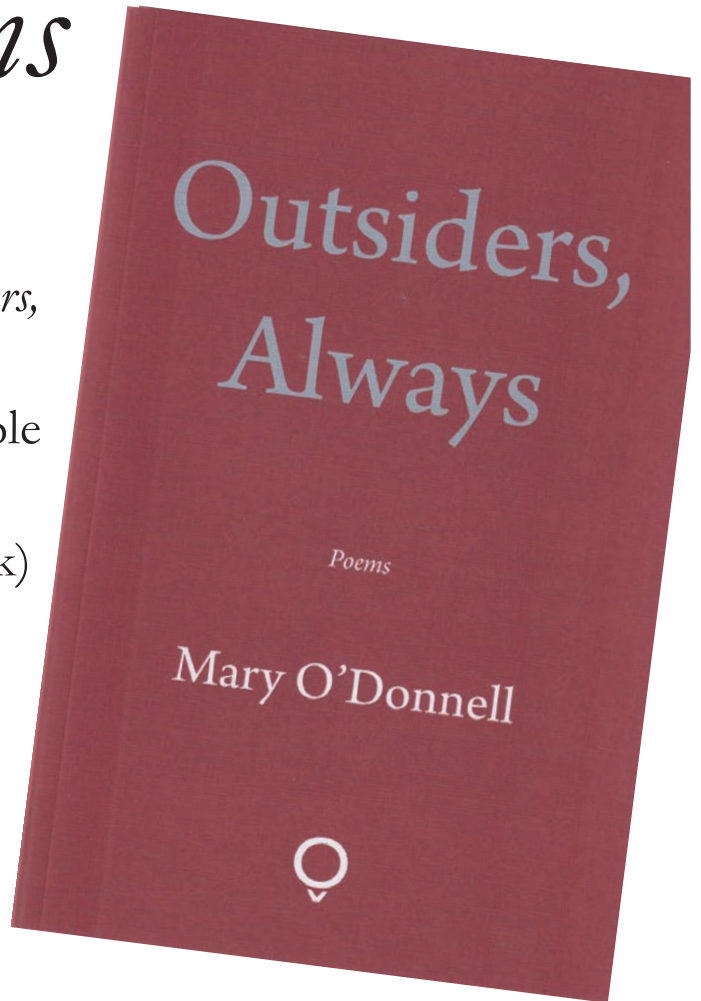
**THOSE WHO
BURN BOOKS
WILL IN THE END
BURN PEOPLE**

— HEINRICH HEINE

SOUTHWORÐ

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

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