

Bookings

Bookings can be made by credit card through the website www.corkshortstory.net until Wednesday 1st October. Bookings by cheque to the Munster Literature Centre will also be accepted up to this date. Thereafter, all purchases must be made at the Cork Arts Theatre in person, by phone (021 450 5624) or online (www.corkartstheatre.com). The Cork Arts Theatre no longer issues physical tickets, so we advise arriving early to events to have your name checked off their 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, T12X802

Phone: +353 (0)21 4322396

Email: info@munsterlit.ie

Pay through credit card/PayPal at

www.corkshortstory.net

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

This festival features subject matter of an adult nature, audience members should expect to encounter stories detailing all kinds of human experience, both traumatic and pleasurable. It would be inappropriate to bring children with you to festival events.



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.

Programme Outline

Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th October

Wednesday 15th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed

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Southword Showcase

(introduced by Patrick Cotter)

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed

page 8

The Lonely Voice: A Study of the Short Story

(moderated by Patrick Holloway)

7.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5

page 10

Mary Morrissy & Mary O'Donnell

(moderated by Sarah Harte)

9.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5

page 12

Laura Jean McKay

(moderated by Patrick Cotter)

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#CorkStoryFest

Thursday 16th

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

Claire-Lise Kieffer & Vanessa Onwuemezi

(moderated by Beverly Parayno)

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

Rosemary Jenkinson & Kirsty Logan

(moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin)

7.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 18

Lisa Moore & Shane Tivenan

(moderated by Laura Cassidy)

9.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 20

Peter Bradshaw & Paul McVeigh

(moderated by Patrick Holloway)



Programme Outline

Wednesday 15th – Saturday 18th October

Friday 17th

2.30pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 22

David Butler & Celia de Fréine

(moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin)

4.00pm, Cork City Library | Free, unticketed page 24

***From the Well* Showcase**

(introduced by Patrick Cotter)

7.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 26

Marni Appleton & Rebecca Ivory

(moderated by Laura Cassidy)

9.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 28

Gina Chung & Mahreen Sohail

(moderated by Beverly Parayno)

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#CorkStoryFest

Saturday 18th

3.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 30

Ó Faoláin Prize Reading

(introduced by Patrick Cotter)

4.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 32

Tanya Farrelly & Nuala O'Connor

(moderated by Jennifer Horgan)

7.30pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 34

Yoko Tawada

(moderated by Till Weingärtner)

9.00pm, Cork Arts Theatre | Admission €5 page 36

Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

(moderated by Nuala O'Connor)

Journal Showcase

Southword Showcase

Introduced by Patrick Cotter

Wednesday 15th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free

Alan McMonagle and Alannah Hopkin are writers who will feature in the upcoming issue of *Southword* (issue 49, November 2025), their short stories chosen from open submission by fiction editor Billy O'Callaghan. There will be readings of two stories each from Alan McMonagle and Rosie O'Regan (who will read the stories of Alannah Hopkin).

PHOTOGRAPHER: JOHN MINIHAN



Alan McMonagle has published two novels, *Ithaca* (Picador, 2017) and *Laura Cassidy's Walk of Fame* (Picador, 2020). *Ithaca* was nominated for the Desmond Elliott Award for First Novels, the Dublin Literary Award and an Irish Book Award. He has also published two collections of short stories, *Psychotic Episodes* (Arlen House, 2013) and *Liar Liar* (Wordsonthestreet, 2008).



Alannah Hopkin is a writer and journalist based in southwest Ireland. In 2020 she was the Frank O'Connor International Short Story Fellow. Her story collection *The Dogs of Inishere* was published by Dalkey Archive Press in 2017. Her work has been read on RTÉ Radio 1 and shortlisted for the RTÉ Short Story Award.

A collage of various artworks and magazine covers. At the top, the word 'SOUTHWORD' is repeated in a light red font on a dark red background. Below it, the title 'SOUTHWORD' is written in large white letters, with a white location pin icon to its right. Underneath the title is the subtitle 'NEW INTERNATIONAL WRITING' in smaller white letters. The main part of the collage features several overlapping images: a man in a dark coat and hat holding a book, a white swan in a field, a classical statue of a man, a close-up of a person's face, and various magazine covers. One cover shows a blue mechanical part, another shows a list of names including Maram al-Masri, Theo Dorgan, Carlo Gellier, Jennifer S., Alan McManagle, Mary O'Donnell, Kim Moore, Mary O'Malley, and Helen Mori. Two covers are labeled 'Southword 42' and 'Southword 43', both with the subtitle 'New International Writing'.

SOUTHWORD
NEW INTERNATIONAL WRITING

Subscribe for
€24 per year
(free postage)
munsterlit.ie

Unsolicited submissions of poetry and short fiction
(for our winter issues) are open annually as follows:

Poetry: 1st – 31st January

Fiction: 1st – 28th February

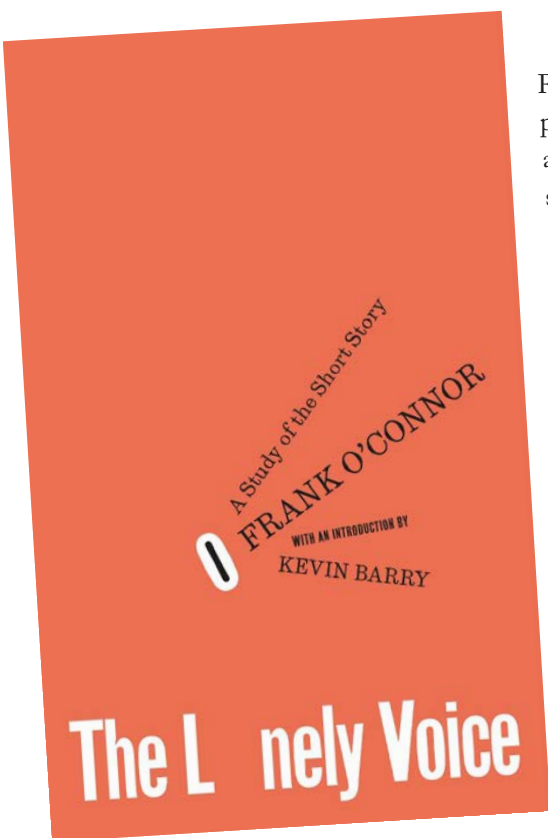
Full guidelines at southword.submittable.com

Discussion & Analysis

The Lonely Voice: A Study of the Short Story

Moderated by Patrick Holloway

Wednesday 15th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



Frank O'Connor's *The Lonely Voice*, published in 1962 was one of the earliest and most seminal analyses of the short story form. It has been republished several times since, various editions carrying introductions by Russell Banks, Richard Forde and Kevin Barry. This event features Cork-based practitioners of fiction discussing the continued relevance of O'Connor's book and comparing the takes of the various introductions.

Danny Denton is a writer from Cork. He is the author of the novels *The Earlie King & the Kid In Yellow* and *All Along The Echo*. He lectures on writing at University College Cork and is a contributing editor to *The Stinging Fly*.

Margy Morrissey is the author of four novels, *Mother of Pearl*, *The Pretender*,

The Rising of Bella Casey and *Penelope Unbound* and three collections of stories, *A Lazy Eye*, *Prosperity Drive* and *Twenty-Twenty Vision*.

Billy O'Callaghan's books include *The Boatman and Other Stories* (Jonathan Cape, 2020) and *The Paper Man* (Jonathan Cape, 2023). His stories have appeared in *Agni*, *the Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The Stinging Fly* and elsewhere.



The Southword Poetry Podcast is produced by the Munster Literature Centre. Each episode, a guest poet talks in depth about their latest work and shares a few of their poems. We also hear a poem from a recent issue of the literary journal *Southword*. Past guests have included Paul Muldoon, Paisley Rekdal, Martin Espada, Ailbhe Ní Ghearbhuigh and Matthew Dickman. Upcoming guests for the 2025 series include Gerry Murphy, Traci Brimhall and Natasha Tretheway.



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



funding
literature



Reading & Discussion

Mary Morrissy & Mary O'Donnell

Moderated by Sarah Harte

Wednesday 15th 7.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

PHOTOGRAPHER: CONOR HORGAN



TWENTY-TWENTY VISION



MARY MORRISSEY

Mary Morrissy is the author of four novels, *Mother of Pearl*, *The Pretender*, *The Rising of Bella Casey* and *Penelope Unbound* and three collections of stories, *A Lazy Eye*, *Prosperity Drive* and *Twenty-Twenty Vision*. Her short fiction has been anthologized widely. She has won a Hennessy Award and the prestigious US Lannan Award for her work. A member of Aosdána, she is a journalist, teacher of creative writing and a literary mentor. She blogs on marymorrissy.com and curates a second site (unawattersartist.com)

devoted to the work of Dublin artist Una Watters.

“Mary Morrissy’s writing has always been characterised by both humanity and barbed wit ... these 18 stories view all manners of troubles and unravellings with a brackish yet benevolent gaze.”

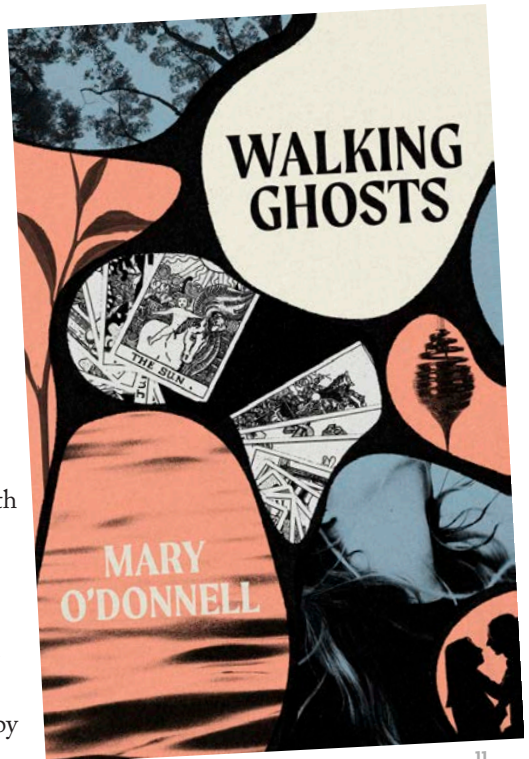
— Henrietta McKervey



Mary O'Donnell has written award-winning poetry, novels, short fiction collections and dynamic essays. Published fiction includes the novels *The Elysium Testament* and *Where They Lie*. In 2023 she received an An Post/ Irish Book Award for her political poem 'Vectors in Kabul'. In 2026 Wake Forest University Press (USA) will publish her ninth poetry collection, *Tenderness*. In May this year, a new short fiction collection, *Walking Ghosts* was published by Mercier Press, and her translated short stories—*Nomadas*—will appear in Argentina next year. Her latest novel, *The Good Daughter*, will be published by Epoque Press in late 2026 in the UK.

"There's a quiet intensity to her storytelling, as if she's standing just out of frame, watching everything with razor-sharp empathy ... her stories move like tidewater: slow, deliberate, pulling you under."

— Lorraine Courtney



Reading & Discussion

Laura Jean McKay Moderated by Patrick Cotter

Wednesday 15th 9.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Laura Jean McKay

is the author of *The Animals in That Country* – winner of the prestigious Arthur C. Clarke Award, the Victorian Prize for Literature, the ABIA Small Publishers Adult Book of the Year and co-winner of the Aurealis Award for Best Science

Fiction Novel 2021. Laura is also the author of *Holiday in Cambodia* and her latest collection is *Gunflower*. She is the 2025 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Fellow and teaches Creative Writing at Massey University.

“Amidst a pile of shed skin and fur, McKay moulds a kaleidoscopic and horrifyingly real portrait of life at the fringes. By turns gritty, surreal, and absurd, Gunflower isn’t afraid to weigh flesh on the scales of our own judgments, a delicate balancing act between life and death, connection and disconnection.”

— Sequoia Nagamatsu



The Frank O'Connor International Short Story Fellowship is made possible through the very generous sponsorship of Cork City Council. Named for one of Cork's most renowned writers, it acknowledges the special place the short story form occupies in the cultural history and contemporary practice of the city. The fellow benefits from the prestige of receiving a highly competitive international literary award which will not only allow the candidate to spend three months concentrating on their own work, but also to acquire more experience in the delivery of workshops and mentorships.

Reading & Discussion

Claire-Lise Kieffer & Vanessa Onwuemezi

Moderated by Beverly Paragno

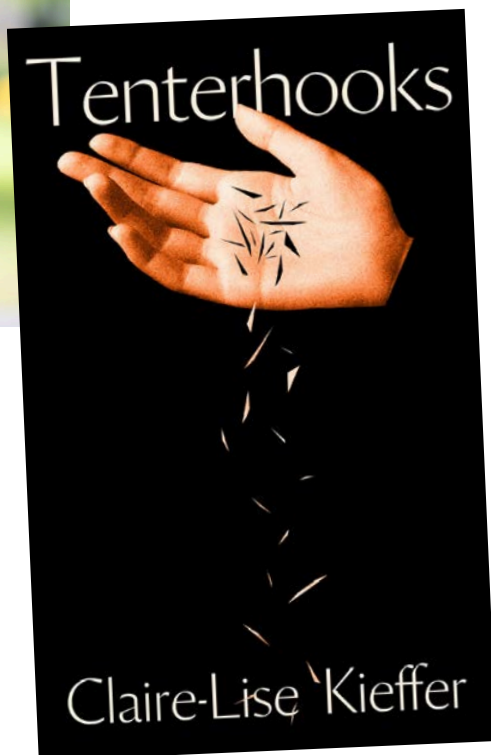
Thursday 16th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



“Kieffer’s stories are propulsive and barbed and sleekly written. Like a cracked mirror, her writing brilliantly reflects modern life and modern relationships with a shade of exquisite uncanniness.”

— John Patrick McHugh

Claire-Lise Kieffer has fiction published in Irish and international magazines. She received two Arts Council grants and published her first book, *Tenterhooks*, in 2025. She now lives in Paris with her best friend and their cat.



PHOTOGRAPHER: PAUL MACGUIRE



Vanessa Onwuemezi lives in London. She was the winner of The White Review Short Story Prize 2019 and her work has appeared in literary and art magazines, including *Granta*, *Frieze* and *Art Review*. Her debut short story collection, *Dark Neighbourhood*, was published by Fitzcarraldo Editions in 2021, and was named one

of *The Guardian's* best books of 2021. It was shortlisted for both the Republic of Consciousness Prize and the Edge Hill Prize in 2022 and her short story 'Green Afternoon' was shortlisted for the BBC National Short Story Award 2022.

"Struggling to realize the human ideals of love and freedom, the characters of Dark Neighbourhood roam instead the depths of alienation, loss and shame. With a detached eye and hallucinatory vision, they observe the worlds around them as the line between dream and reality dissolves and they themselves begin to fragment."

— Justine Jordan

DARK NEIGHBOURHOOD

VANESSA ONWUEMEZI

Fitzcarraldo Editions

Reading & Discussion

Rosemary Jenkinson & Kirsty Logan

Moderated by Clíona Ní Ríordáin

Thursday 16th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free

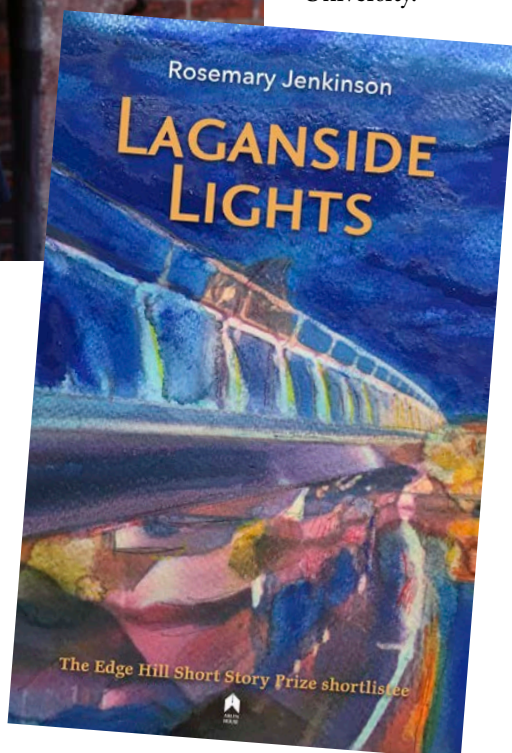
Rosemary Jenkinson is a poet, writer and up-all-nighter. Her short story collections are *Contemporary Problems Nos. 53 & 54*, *Aphrodite's Kiss*, *Catholic Boy* (EU Prize for Literature shortlist), *Lifestyle Choice 10mgs* (Edge Hill Prize shortlist), *Marching Season* and *Love in the Time of Chaos* (Edge Hill Prize shortlist). Her latest, *Laganside Lights*, was published in 2025 by Arlen House. *The Irish Times* has praised her fiction for 'an elegant wit, terrific characterization and an absolute sense of her own particular Belfast'.

She is an Arts Council Major Artist and Royal Literary Fund fellow at Queen's University.



"Sizzling with wit, insight and her own sly, subversive understanding of sexuality, Rosemary Jenkinson is a born disruptor, a writer afraid of nothing ... Read at your peril, savour the danger."

— Mia Gallagher

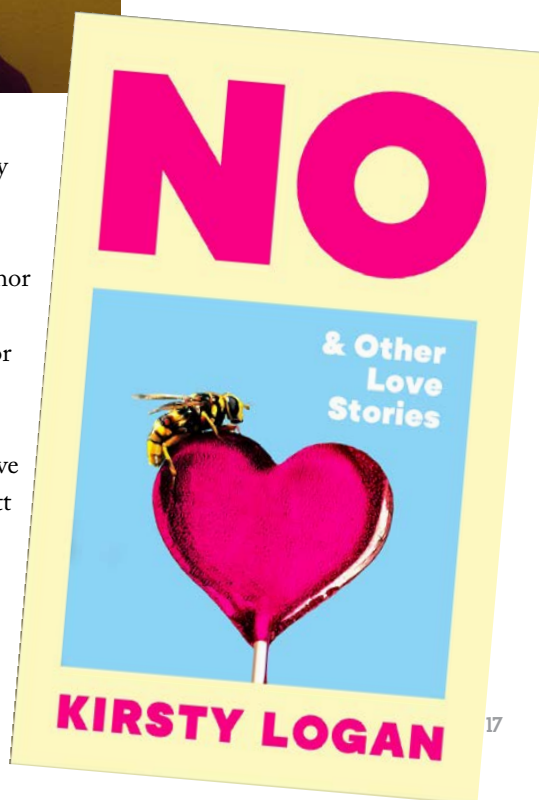


PHOTOGRAPHER: SIMONE FALK



"No one writes about the horrific and the erotic, and the tangled-up intersections of both, like Kirsty Logan. This book will make you sweat."
— Anna Bogutskaya

Kirsty Logan's latest books are the story collection *No & Other Love Stories* and the memoir *The Unfamiliar: A Queer Motherhood Memoir*. She is also the author of three novels, three story collections, two chapbooks, a 10-hour audio play for Audible, several collaborative projects with musicians and visual artists, and around 300 short stories. Her books have won the Lambda, Polari, Saboteur, Scott and Gavin Wallace awards. Her work has been optioned for TV, developed for film, adapted for stage, recorded for radio and podcasts, exhibited in galleries and distributed from a vintage Wurlitzer cigarette machine.



Reading & Discussion

Lisa Moore & Shane Tivenan

Moderated by Laura Cassidy

Thursday 16th 7.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

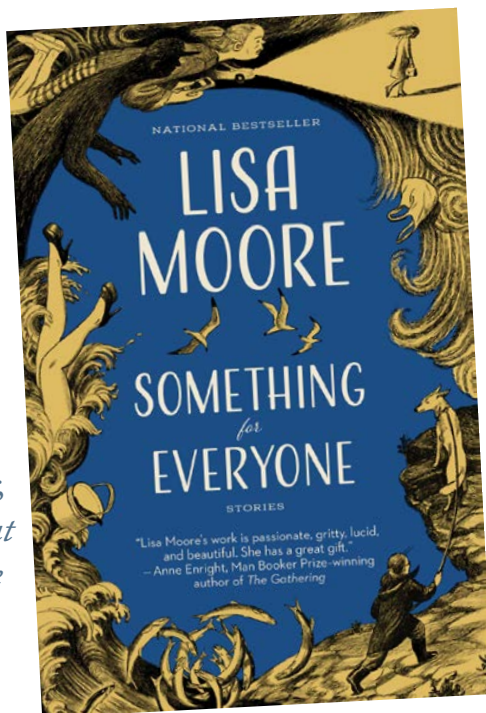
Lisa Moore is the author of the bestselling novels *Alligator*, *February*, and *Caught*; the short story collections *Open* and *Something for Everyone*; and the young adult novel, *Flannery*. She has won the Commonwealth Fiction Prize, CBC's Canada Reads, and the Writers' Trust Engel Findley Award and received nominations for the Man

Booker Prize, the Giller Prize, and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize. Moore's third novel, *Caught*, was adapted into a CBC television series. She lives in St. John's, Canada.



"Moore's every word, every sentence, every detail, is a tiny snowflake; perfectly shaped and unique. Together, they make a storm so strong it can shut down a whole province ... Each scene crystallizes in gritty, lucid prose."

— Katherine Fawcett



Shane Tivenan grew up close to Athlone Town, County Roscommon. He studied Cultural Anthropology at Maynooth University. His fiction has appeared in *The Stinging Fly*, *The London Magazine*, *Prototype*, and has been broadcast on RTÉ Radio



1. He was awarded the 2020 RTÉ Francis MacManus Prize and the 2024 John McGahern Award. His collection of short stories *To Avenge a Dead Glacier* has been described by *The Irish Times* as a ‘vital and visionary debut’.

“There is a psychedelic brilliance to the way Shane Tivenan harnesses language. Paragraph after paragraph thrums with sound, buzzes with energy, delights with beauty. These stories straddle worlds: ancient and digital, human and animal, bog and sky; they sing with freshness and daring.”

— Danielle McLaughlin



Reading & Discussion

Peter Bradshaw & Paul McVeigh

Moderated by Patrick Holloway

Thursday 16th 9.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

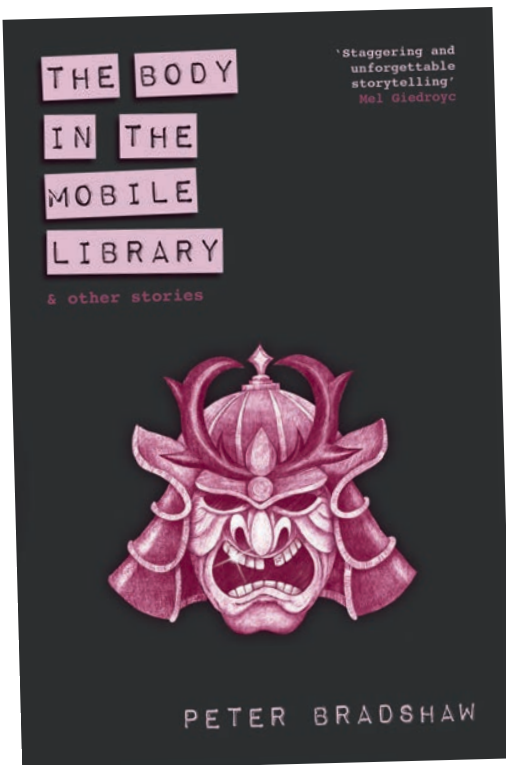
Peter Bradshaw

is an author and critic who has been chief film critic for *The Guardian* since 1999 and is also contributing editor of *Esquire UK*. His most recent publication is *The Body In the Mobile Library and Other*

Stories and in addition he has written three novels and an edited selection of his *Guardian* reviews entitled *The Films That Made Me*. He also writes for radio and television and is currently co-writing a drama-thriller for Channel Four TV entitled *I Am Not Alice Bell*. He lives in London with his wife and son.

"Bradshaw relishes the grotesque and improbable; his set-ups are outrageously inventive ... Characters are sympathetically drawn and their longings, insecurities, vanities and weaknesses feel all too credible."

— Emma Beddington



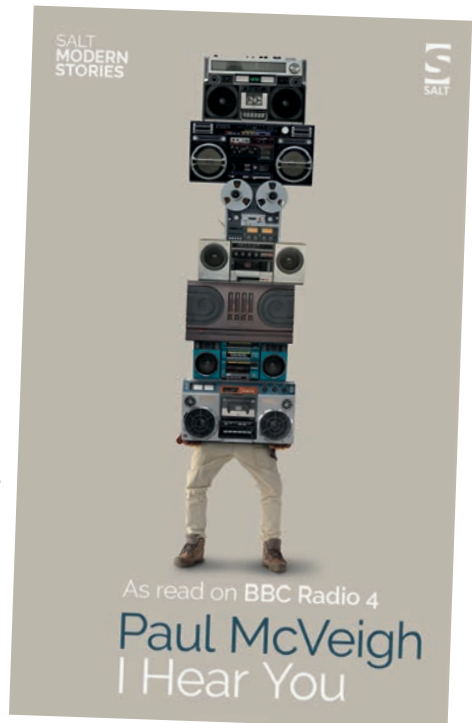
PHOTOGRAPHER: CHAD ALEXANDER



“This is a world of escape artists and fraudsters, of body swaps and comedy cuckoos, of misfits and trespassers of every ilk ... where else would you want to be than amongst the outliers, where the tender, the vulnerable and the brave reside?”

— Bernie McGill

Paul McVeigh's short stories have been in numerous anthologies including *Being Various*, *The Art of the Glimpse* and *Common People*. They have also appeared in *The London Magazine*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Irish Times*, on BBC Radio 3, 4, 5, RTÉ Radio 1, and Sky ARTS. His ten-part short story series, *The Circus*, aired on BBC Radio 4 in 2023 and was repeated on BBC Radio Ulster and BBC Radio Foyle. His debut collection of radio stories, *I Hear You*, was published by Salt in March 2025. Paul co-founded the London Short Story Festival and was associate director of Word Factory, described by *The Guardian* as ‘the UK’s national organisation for excellence in the short story.’

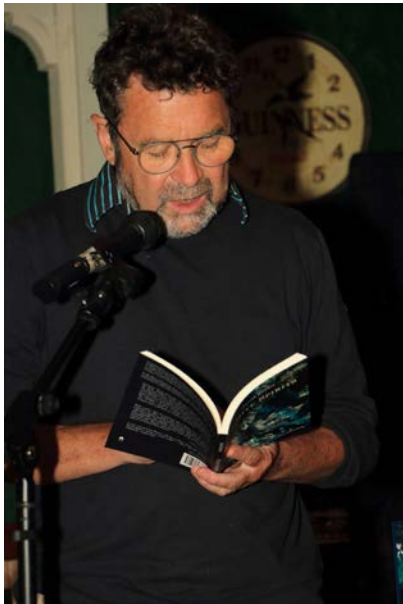


Reading & Discussion

David Butler & Celia de Fréine

Moderated by Clóna Ní Ríordáin

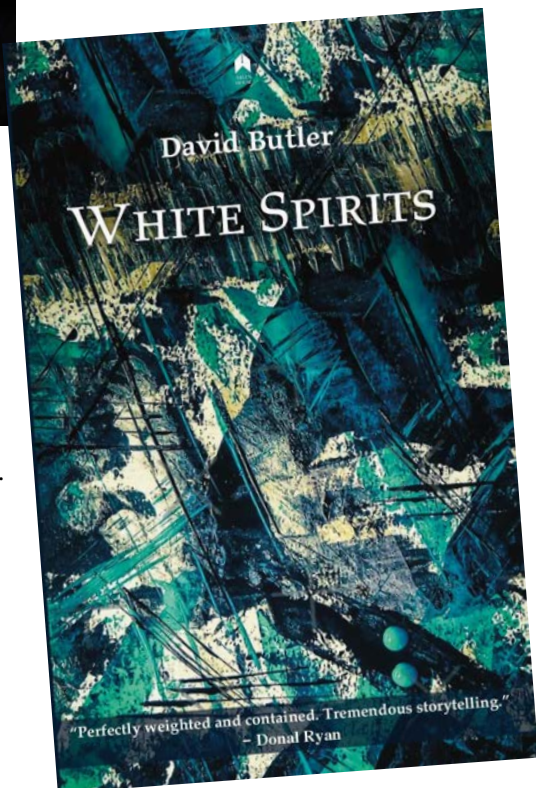
Friday 17th 2.30pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free



"The prose has a strong Hiberno-English flavour and, in the first-person narratives, the idiolects lure you in with their rough lyricism ... his portraits are compellingly rich and their colour flares in the mind long after the book is closed."

— Rosemary Jenkinson

David Butler's novel *City of Dis* (New Island) was shortlisted for the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year, 2015. In addition to *White Spirits* (2025), Arlen House published his second story collection, *Fugitive*, in 2021, while his latest novel, *Scorched Earth*, will be published under pen-name Dara Kavanagh by Dedalus Books in October. Awards for the short story include the Maria Edgeworth (twice), Benedict Kiely, Colm Tóibín, ChipLit Fest, ITT/Redline and Fish International.



Celia de Fréine is a poet, playwright, novelist, biographer and screenwriter who writes in Irish and English. Awards for her poetry include the Patrick Kavanagh Award, Gradam Litríochta Chló Iar-Chonnacht and the British

Comparative Literature Association Translation Award. Her plays have won numerous Oireachtas awards and her film and television scripts have won awards in Ireland and America. She has been nominated four times in different categories in An Post Irish Book Awards. *Even Still* (Arlen House, 2025) is her first collection of short stories in English.



“Celia de Fréine is a marvel. With its unique, characteristically stark, witty perspective on the lives of women and girls, this collection is a welcome addition to her already extensive, multi-genre body of work in both Irish and English.”

— Catherine Dunne



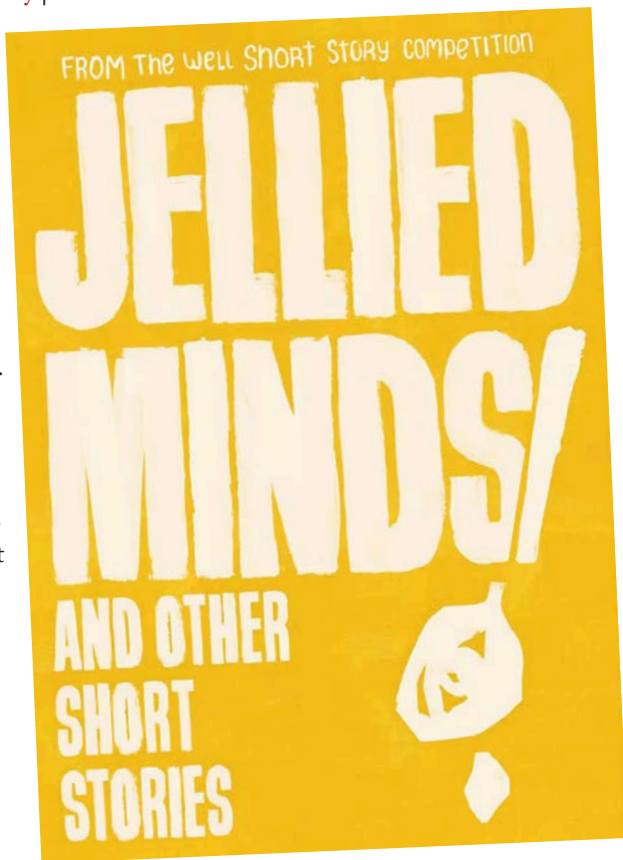
Anthology Showcase

From the Well Showcase

Introduced by Patrick Cotter

Friday 17th 4.00pm **Cork City Library** | Admission free

Jellied Minds and Other Short Stories is the 21st edition of Cork City Council and Library Service annual 'From the Well' short story anthology. Patrick Holloway, who featured in this anthology in 2023, selected 20 stories from over 150 submissions, five of which will be read at this event by the writers.



After years in Arts Education, **Camille Dorney** retrained as a Primary Teacher. She attended the Bantry Library Writer's Group. Her stories have appeared in previous *From the Well* anthologies. She has engaged in public readings of her work, including the West Cork Literary Festival. Camille is working on a middle-grade novel and flash fiction.



Billy Fenton writes poetry and short fiction. His poetry has been widely published. His stories have been published in *The Four-Faced Liar*, *Crannóg*, *Ogham Stone*, *Galway Review*, and the *From the Well* anthology 2025.

Valentine Jones is an 18-year-old Limerick writer. Places they have been published include *Paper Lanterns*, *The Wild Umbrella*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *The Irish Times Youth Supplement*, and the *From the Well* anthology. They have received the Enda O'Brien Young Writers Award, and the Sr. Joan Bowles Youth Award.



Sheila Killian is a novelist and short story writer. Her work has been listed in the Fish Publishing, Seán Ó Faoláin, From the Well and Molly Keane short story competitions and has been broadcast on RTÉ. She lives in Limerick and spends as much time as she can by the sea.

Daniel McCarthy is a writer from West Cork. He has an MA in Creative Writing from UCC. His work has been published in *Abyss* and this year's *From the Well* anthology.



Reading & Discussion

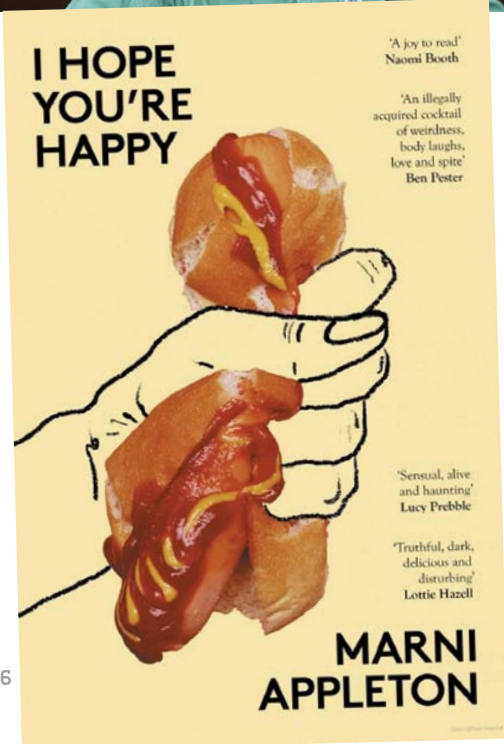
Marni Appleton & Rebecca Ivory

Moderated by Laura Cassidy

Friday 17th 7.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Marni Appleton is a writer living in London. She holds a PhD in creative-critical writing from the University of East Anglia. Her short stories have been published in *The Tangerine*, *Banshee* and *The London Magazine*, among others. Her first short story collection, *I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY*, was published in February 2025.



“Truthful, dark, and walking the line between delicious and disturbing, I HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY is a rich and haunting read. Savour or gorge, this is a very special collection of deceptively cutting stories.”

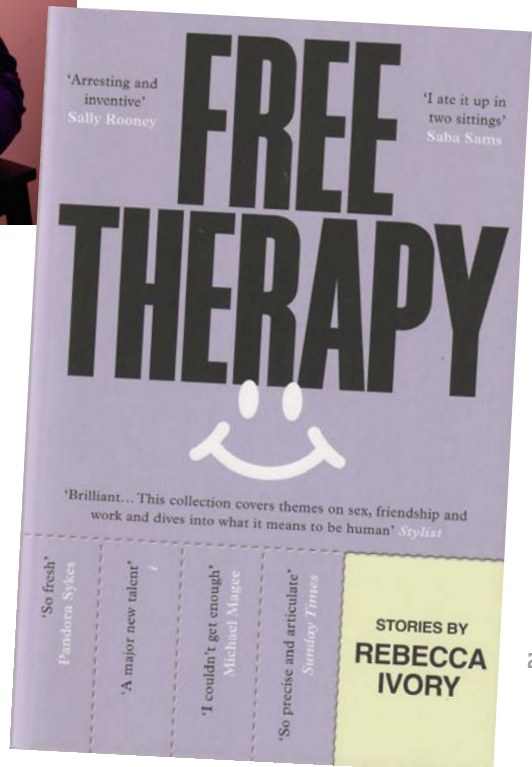
— Lottie Hazell



Rebecca Ivory is a writer based in Dublin. *Free Therapy* is her debut collection. Her stories have been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *Fallow Media*, *Tangerine* and *Banshee*. She is a recipient of the Arts Council Literature Bursary and in 2024, she was longlisted for the Edge Hill Prize. She is currently working on her first novel.

"Beneath these stories runs a pulsing darkness, a restless humour, a palpable and astute distrust. Here are all the ways we scam each other, but most of all ourselves."

— Saba Sams



Reading & Discussion

Gina Chung & Mahreen Sohail

Moderated by Beverly Parayno

Friday 17th 9.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

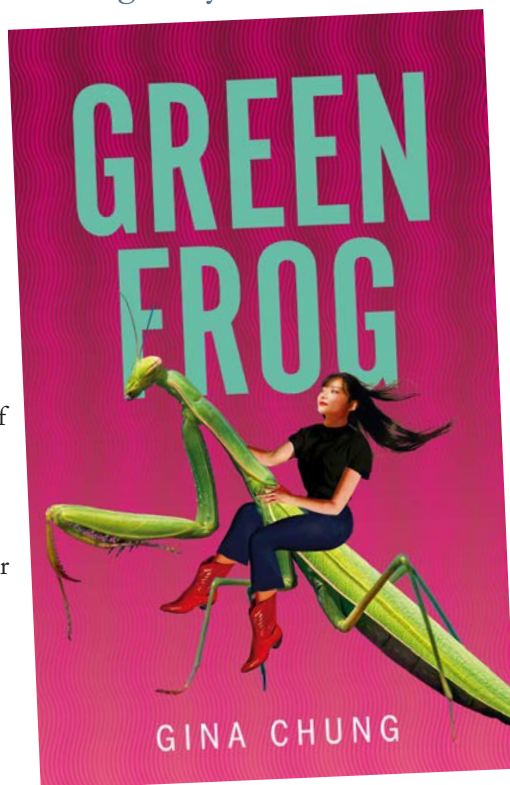


PHOTOGRAPHER: S.M. SUKARDI

Gina Chung is a Korean American writer in New York City. She is the author of the novel *Sea Change*, which was longlisted for the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize and a B&N Discover Pick, and the short story collection *Green Frog*, which was a Good Morning America Book Buzz Pick, an NPR Best Book of the Year, and longlisted for the New American Voices Award. She has received the O. Henry Prize for Short Fiction, a Pushcart Prize, two APALA Adult Fiction Honors, and a Center for Fiction Emerging Writer Fellowship.

*“From praying mantises to toothy cats to shape-shifting kumihos—a menagerie of creatures stalk Gina Chung’s stories, bringing their appetites and apprehensions to these spellbinding narratives of love, loss, and belonging. In *Green Frog*, magic comes in many forms: from outright enchantments to small miracles of grace.”*

— Allegra Hyde



Mahreen Sohail was born in Pakistan. She has an MFA from Sarah Lawrence College where she studied as a Fulbright scholar; and was a Writing Fellow at A Public Space and a Charles Pick Fellow at the University of East Anglia. Her work has appeared in *Granta*, the *Kenyon Review*, the *Pushcart Prize Anthology (XLII)*, and elsewhere. She lives in Washington DC.



“In these pages, a flawless eye for detail meets a daring instinct to tack and swerve and startle; stories rewrite themselves paragraph by paragraph and sometimes in the space of a single phrase, always following the pulse of life. Small Scale Sinners is wonderful on sisterhood, on sex, on Pakistan, on coming of age.”

— Garth Risk Hallberg



Prize Reading

Ó Faoláin Prize Reading

Introduced by Patrick Cotter

Saturday 18th 3.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



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 €2,000, 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 as chosen by this year's judge Laura Jean McKay.

Details of the winner, not yet announced at the time of this publication, will be posted on corkshortstory.net. Prizewinning and shortlisted stories from this competition will be published in *Southword* 50 (summer 2026).

"As I see it a short story, if it is a good story, is like a child's kite, a small wonder, a brief, bright moment. It has its limitations; there are things it can do and cannot do but, if it is good, it moves in the same element as the largest work of art – up there, airborne."

— Seán Ó Faoláin



€1000 FOR THE BEST ENTRY OF THREE POEMS

Each entrant for their €24 entry fee will receive a postage-free, one-year subscription to *Southword*. Poems will be read and judged anonymously. Poems must be previously unpublished. The winning poet will have their three poems published in *Southword*.

Deadline 30 September. Full guidelines at munsterlit.ie.

Reading & Discussion

Tanya Farrelly & Nuala O'Connor

Moderated by Jennifer Horgan

Saturday 18th 4.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

“Farrelly does an effective line in mood and intrigue as she weaves her narrative magic, effortlessly drawing the reader ever further into the unsettling tales she has fashioned.”

— Alan McMonagle

Tanya Farrelly is the author of five books. Her debut fiction collection *When Black Dogs Sing* was named winner of the Kate O’Brien Award 2017. Two psychological thrillers: *The Girl Behind the Lens* and *When Your Eyes Close* were published by Harper Collins, London. She holds a PhD in Creative and Critical Writing from Bangor University, Wales and was appointed Writer-in-Residence at NUI Galway in 2021. In March 2025, she edited the anthology *Take Six: Six Irish Women Writers* (Dedalus Books). Her latest short story collection *The Marionette and the Maestro* has just been published by Arlen House.



PHOTOGRAPHER: ÚNA O'CONNOR



Nuala O'Connor lives in Galway. Her sixth novel, *Seaborne*, about Irish-born pirate Anne Bonny, was nominated for the Dublin Literary Award and shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the 2024 An Post Irish Book Awards. She won Irish Short Story of the Year at the

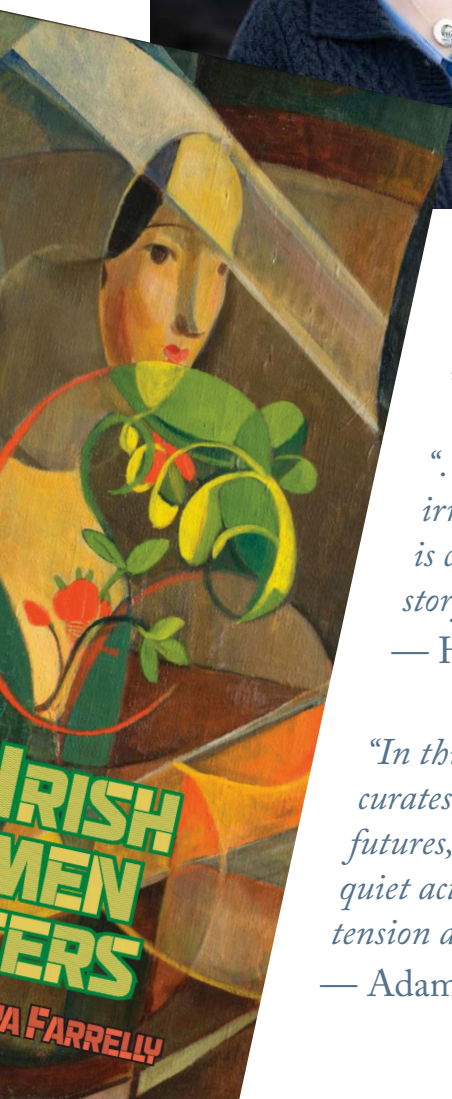
2022 Irish Book Awards. Her fifth poetry collection, *Menagerie*, was published by Arlen House in spring 2025. She is currently writing a memoir about late-diagnosed autism.

"...blending of wry, caustic irreverence and meditative poignancy is central to the success of O'Connor's storytelling. The mix is just right."

— Houman Barekat

"In this powerful anthology, Tanya Farrelly curates six short stories spanning dystopian futures, where daughters are outlawed, to quiet acts of voyeurism, all threaded with tension and ethical ambiguity."

— Adam Wyeth



Reading & Discussion

Yoko Tawada

Moderated by Till Weingärtner

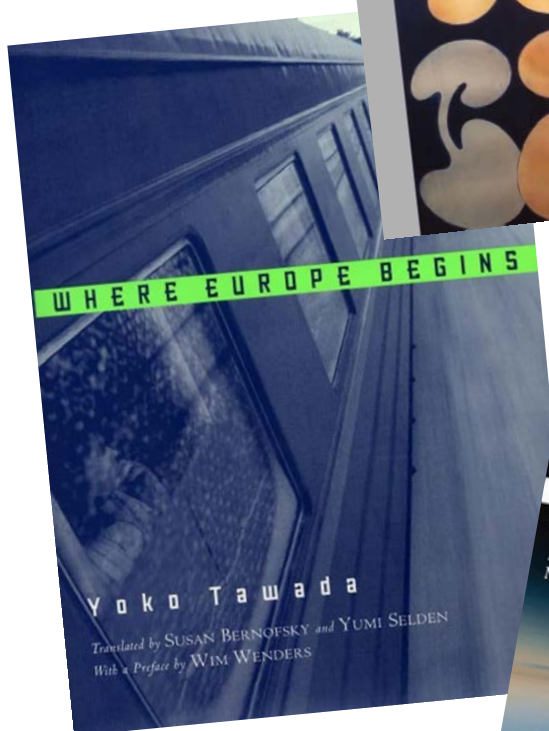
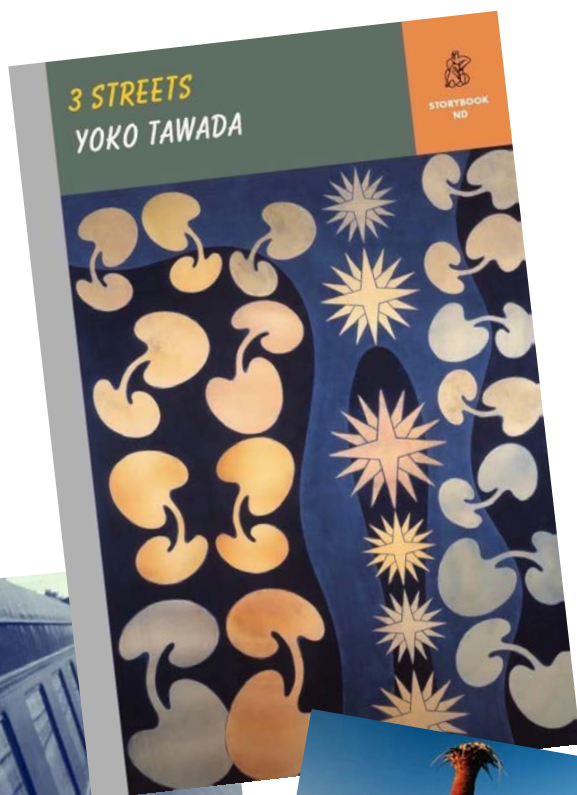
Saturday 18th 7.30pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5



Yoko Tawada was born in Tokyo and moved to Germany at the age of 22. She published her first collection of prose and poetry in 1987 with konkursbuchverlag Claudia Gehrke, and has been writing both in Japanese and German since. She has also been active in giving readings and performances in collaboration with the pianist Aki Takase. Tawada is the recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, including the Kleist Prize (Germany) and the Akutagawa Prize (Japan). The English version of *Kentoshi* or *The Emissary* (2018) has won the U.S. National Book Award for Translated Literature.

“Tawada is an artist out on the tip of the spear. She isn’t courting a readership, curating her image, coaxing popularity like some; she is pushing her art forward, and we as readers are welcome along for the ride if we can keep up. It’s startling, breathtaking prose, literature at its purest. What to compare it to? Nothing. It is simply Tawadaesque...”

— Iain Maloney



Reading & Discussion

Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

Moderated by Nuala O'Connor

Saturday 18th 9.00pm **Cork Arts Theatre** | Admission €5

PHOTOGRAPHER: VINCENT HOBAN



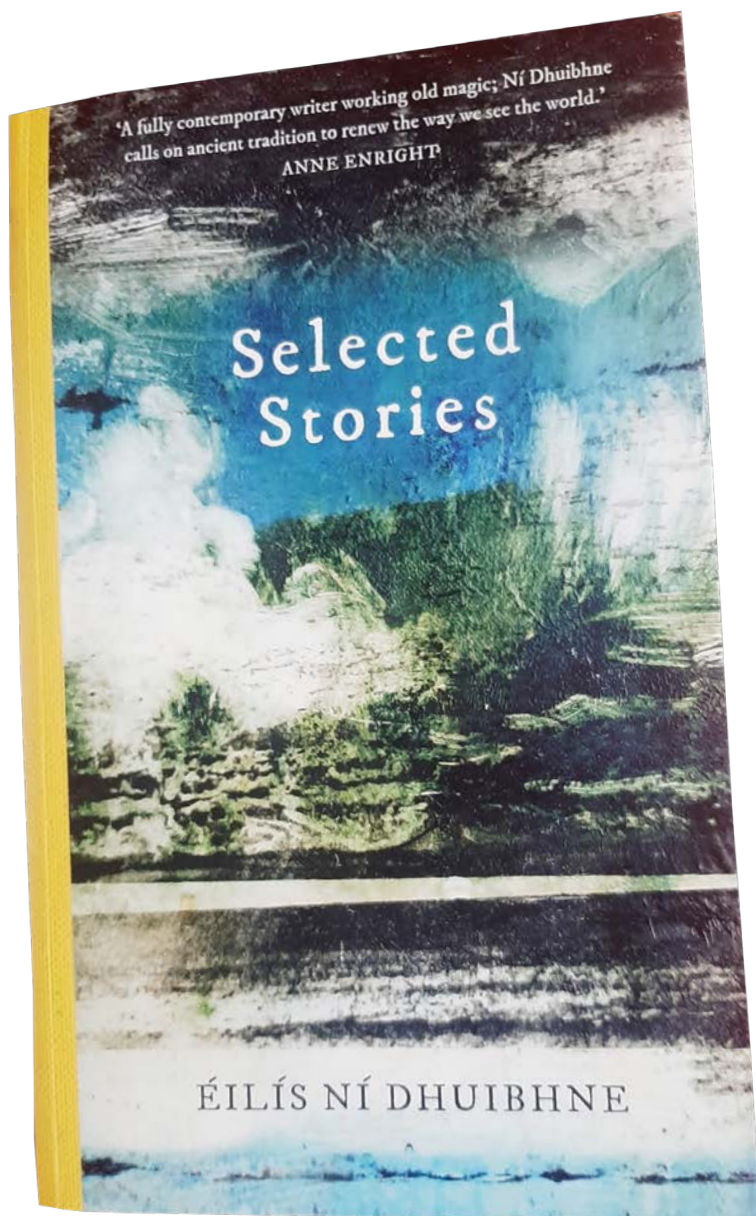
Éilís Ní Dhuibhne

was born in Dublin. Author of novels, short stories, memoir and drama, her most recent books are *Twelve Thousand Days: A Memoir* (shortlisted for the Michel Déon Award 2020), *Little Red and Other Stories* (Blackstaff 2020), *Selected Stories* (Blackstaff 2023), *Milseog an tSamhraidh* (Clo Iar

Chonnacht 2023), and *Look! It's a Woman Writer!* (Arlen House 2021). She has been the recipient of many literary awards. 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. She is the present Laureate for Irish Fiction.

"...linguistic precision convey[s] the social observations of her cool eye, and the unsettling way compassion emerges from behind the satirical edge ... Ni Dhuibhne's pre-eminent technical gift – to evoke a character or mood unmistakably in three words – is dazzling."

— Bernard O'Donoghue



Moderators

Laura Cassidy is a writer from Co. Kildare, living in Cork City. She is a co-founder and contributing editor of *Banshee* and reviews books for *The Irish Examiner*. Laura is a recipient of the Cecil Day-Lewis Literary Bursary Award along with several awards from the Arts Council. Her short fiction recently appeared in *The Pig's Back* literary journal.

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.

Sarah Harte has won or been shortlisted for prizes in Ireland and the UK including The Bryan MacMahon short story prize, The Bridport Prize, the Manchester Fiction Prize, the Seán Ó Faoláin International Short Story Prize, and the Fish Short Story Prize. She is completing a novel and is a columnist for *The Irish Examiner*.

Patrick Holloway's debut novel, *The Language of Remembering*, is published by Epoque Press (2025). He is the winner of the Bath Short Story Award, The Allingham Fiction Prize, The Flash 500 Prize and The Molly Keane Creative Writing Prize. He is an editor of the literary journal *The Four Faced Liar*.

Jennifer Horgan is a Cork poet, teacher and columnist. Her work appears in various journals including *Acumen*, *Skylight 47*, *Southword* and *Ragaire*. She was shortlisted in RTE's *The Prompt* series in July 2025. Her debut collection *Care* is published by Doire Press.

Clíona Ní Ríordáin is a critic and translator who teaches at the University of Notre Dame. Recent publications are *English Language Poets in University College Cork 1970-1980* (Palgrave, 2020), and *Francis Bacon's Nanny*, the final volume of Maylis Besserie's Irish trilogy (Lilliput, 2024). The first, *Yell, Sam, If You Still Can*, was runner up for the 2023 Scott Moncrieff Award.

Nuala O'Connor lives in Galway. Her sixth novel, *Seaborne*, about Irish-born pirate Anne Bonny, was nominated for the Dublin Literary Award and shortlisted for Novel of the Year at the 2024 An Post Irish Book Awards. Her fifth poetry collection, *Menagerie*, was published by Arlen House in spring 2025. She is currently writing a memoir about late-diagnosed autism.

Beverly Parayno was born in the Bay Area and raised in East San José by immigrant parents from the Philippines. Her fiction, memoir, essays and author interviews appear in *Narrative Magazine*, *Bellingham Review*, *The Rumpus*, *Warscapes*, *Kuizache*, and *Southword*, among others. Her debut short story collection *WILDFLOWERS* is published by PAWA Press (2023).

Till Weingärtner is Senior Lecturer in Japanese Studies at University College Cork. A former Japan Foundation Fellow at the University of Tokyo, he has performed stand-up comedy in Japan, dabbles in storytelling and translates Japanese prose and poetry.

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.

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