



# Cúirt

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE  
FÉILE IDIRNÁISIÚNTA LITRÍOCHTA

**A DIGITAL  
LITERATURE FESTIVAL**

**23-25 APRIL 2020**

**[www.cuirt.ie](http://www.cuirt.ie)**

**#CUIRT2020**



A Welcome  
from Director,  
**Sasha de Buyl**

Not three weeks ago, I wrote that we are living through interesting times, and how true that has proven to be. In the past month, the world around us has changed immeasurably. Arts festivals across the globe have been forced to shut their doors, to cancel programmes and urge their audiences to stay home. Human connection, it seems, is at the core of many arts experiences. To remove this crucial point of connection does not stop human beings from seeking out art in strange times.

Books are, to quote Stephen King, a uniquely portable magic. And so the ideas, voices and conversations that make our festival special can still be brought to our audiences. We've reshaped our programme and this year we are bringing you our first ever literature festival that is presented entirely online. What follows is not exactly what our festival might have been like to attend in person, but I hope it will bring a little of bit of the famous Cúirt spirit to each person who attends.

All events are free to access and available to view from anywhere in the world, so whether you be a Galway local, or tuning in from distant shores, you can come and be a part of Cúirt 2020.

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**Join the conversation with #Cúirt2020**



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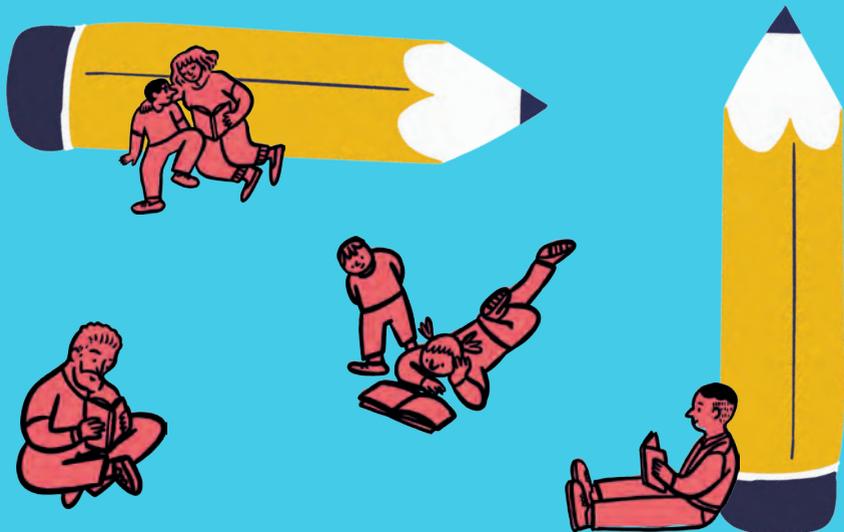


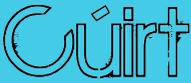
<https://www.youtube.com/CuirtFestival>

# Accessing Cúirt Digital Festival 2020

## Getting to Cúirt has never been easier!

- 1** Browse the programme to find what events you'd like to attend
- 2** Follow the link in the event to register to take part. You'll be asked for your name and your email address.
- 3** You'll receive an email with a special link to watch or listen just before the event starts.
- 4** Tune in and enjoy!





## A DIGITAL LITERATURE FESTIVAL

23-25 APRIL 2020 [www.cuirt.ie](http://www.cuirt.ie)

### All events are free to attend

All events take place at Irish Standard Time

#### Thursday 23 April

- 13:00 Mothertongues: **Pàdraig MacAoidh, Ciara Ní É, Ifor Ap GLyn**
- 17:30 **Mary Costello** and **Alan McMonagle**
- 19:30 **Eimear McBride**  
in conversation with **Edel Coffey**

#### Friday 24 April

- 11:00 Poetry with **Roisín Kelly** and **Michael Gorman**
- 13:00 **Sara Baume**  
in conversation with **Sinéad Gleeson**
- 17:30 **Elaine Feeney** and **Lisa McLnerney**
- 19:30 **Anne Enright**  
in conversation with **Rick O' Shea**

#### Saturday 25 April

- 11:00 Ireland of the Welcomes: **Owudinni Mustapha, Melatu Uche Okorie** and **Jess Traynor**
- 13:00 **Rob Doyle**
- 17:30 Poetry: **Carolyn Forché** and **Kei Miller**
- 19:30 **Jan Carson** and **Kevin Barry**  
in conversation with **Peggy Hughes**





Ifor ap Glyn



Ciara Ní É



Pàdraig MacAoidh



Lleucu Siencyn

**Thursday****23 April**

13:00 Irish

Standard Time

[Livestream](#)**‘Mothertongues’**

Ciara Ní É, Ifor ap Glyn and Pàdraig MacAoidh

In partnership with British Council, Welsh Government and Literature Wales.

National Poet of Wales **Ifor ap Glyn**, **Ciara Ní É** and **Pàdraig MacAoidh** present new poems delving into the idea of language from a Welsh, Scots Gaelic and Irish language perspective. With captivating performances, their work explores identities and how languages continue to evolve. Above all, they'll revel in the sheer exuberance of their respective 'mothertongues' – and celebrating our distinct literary cultures. Presentations and discussions will be in English with on-screen translations of the poems.

**Ciara Ní É** is DCU Writer in Residence 2020. She is the founder of REIC, a monthly multilingual spoken word and open mic night that features poetry, music, storytelling and rap. She has performed internationally in New York, London, Brussels, and across Ireland, and she is an Irish Writers Centre ambassador. Her work has been published in a variety of journals including Icarus and Comhar and her first poetry collection is forthcoming.

**Ifor ap Glyn** is the National Poet of Wales. Born and bred in London to Welsh parents, Ifor is a multi-award-winning poet, presenter, director and producer. A prolific writer, Ifor has twice won the Crown at the National Eisteddfod – one of the festival's most prestigious prizes. Ifor has represented Welsh poetry around the world in both the Welsh and English language, most recently in Cameroon, Lithuania, China, Belgium, Germany, and Ireland.

A native Gaelic speaker from the Isle of Lewis, **Pàdraig MacAoidh** is an academic, writer and broadcaster whose work is influenced by the diverse linguistic heritage of his birthplace. Pàdraig has worked at the Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry, Queen's University Belfast; Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin; and at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, where he was writer in residence. He is the author of a monograph on the work of Sorley MacLean (RISS, 2010), and has co-edited collections of essays on modern Irish and Scottish poetry and on Scottish Gaelic literature.

The event will be introduced by **Lleucu Siencyn**, CEO of Literature Wales, who will convene an audience Q&A following the performances.

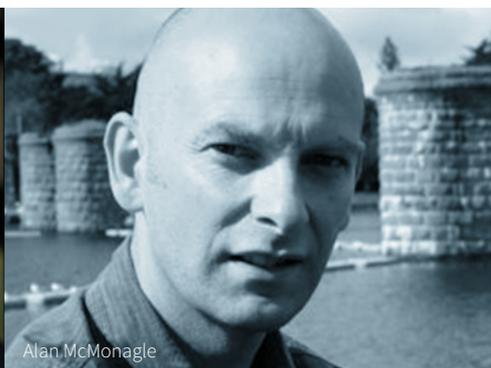


● *Beidh togha na sribhneoirí Gaeilge páirteach sa bhféile*

**Register and  
Book Tickets  
Here**



Mary Costello



Alan McMonagle

**Thursday**  
**23 April**

17:30 Irish  
Standard Time  
[Livestream](#)

## Mary Costello and Alan McMonagle

In 2020, our year as European Capital of Culture, we bring together two of Galway's most celebrated writers, showcasing the depth and scope of literary talent within our county lines.

Mary Costello, winner of the Irish Book Awards Novel of the Year in 2014 for her debut, *Academy Street*, returns to Cúirt with her second novel *The River Capture* (2019). In a novel that pays glorious homage to Joyce, *The River Capture* tells of one man's descent into near madness, and the possibility of rescue. It is a book about the life of the mind and the redemptive powers of art.

Alan McMonagle's second novel, *Laura Cassidy's Walk of Fame* is the highly anticipated follow up to his debut work of fiction, *Ithaca* (2017). An engrossing and insightful book, this novel is a wonderful observation of love and loss, with a voice that blends devil humour, quiet mayhem, and a singled-minded optimism.

**Mary Costello** is from Galway. Her short story collection, *The China Factory* (2012) was nominated for the Guardian First Book Award and shortlisted for an Irish Book Award. Her first novel, *Academy Street* (2014) won the Irish Book Awards Book of the Year and was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award, the Costa First Novel Award and the EU Prize for Literature. *The River Capture* is her second novel.

*'One of the most interesting and surprising novels of the year... This is a sensory book that draws on the body to feed the mind.'* John Self, *The Times*

**Alan McMonagle** has written for radio and published two collections of short stories (*Psychotic Episodes*, Arlen House, 2013 and *Liar Liar*, Wordsonthestreet, 2008). *Ithaca*, his first novel, was published by Picador in 2017 as part of a two-book deal, and longlisted for the Desmond Elliott Award for first novels and shortlisted for an Irish Book Award. His second novel, *Laura Cassidy's Walk Of Fame*, was published in March of this year. He lives in Galway

*'Alan McMonagle possesses a style that is all his own.'* Patrick McCabe, author of *The Butcher Boy*.

**Register and  
Book Tickets  
Here**



Sophie Bassouls

**Thursday  
23 April**

19:30 Irish  
Standard Time  
[Livestream](#)



**Register and  
Book Tickets  
Here**

## **Eimear McBride: Strange Hotel**

Join us for a conversation with one of Ireland's most exciting contemporary novelists, Eimear McBride.

Continuing in the tradition of Irish experimental writing, Eimear McBride's prose pries apart language to expose the circuitry of thought and sensation that makes up human consciousness.

McBride's debut novel, *A Girl Is a Half-Formed Thing*, was published in 2013 to critical acclaim, winning the Goldsmiths Prize, the Desmond Elliott Prize, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction, and the Kerry Group Irish Novel of the Year Award. Her second book, *The Lesser Bohemians* (2017) was equally well-received, winning the 2017 James Tait Black Memorial Prize, as well as being shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize and the International Dublin Literary Award.

Cúirt is delighted to welcome back Eimear McBride to discuss her latest novel, *Strange Hotel*, wherein she turns her incisive eye to the uniquely human experience of a hotel room. Touching on love, loss and ageing, McBride takes an abstract conceit and uses it to uncover the brilliance and dullness of the human condition.

A brilliant reader, this event is not to be missed!

This event will be chaired by arts journalist and book critic, **Edel Coffey**



**Friday**

**24 April**

11:00 Irish

Standard Time

[Podcast](#)

## **Michael Gorman and Róisín Kelly**

Separated by a generation but both drawing on Ireland's distinct landscape, social history and mythology for their inspiration, poets Róisín Kelly and Michael Gorman are brought together to read from their latest collections.

**Michael Gorman** was born in Sligo but has made Galway his home for many years. He has produced three collections of poetry, with his most recent *Fifty Poems*, being published just last year, in 2019. His work has been included in several anthologies, including *Voices and Poetry of Ireland* (2004), *Lifelines Lifelines* (2006) and *Windharp: Poems of Ireland Since 1916* (2015).

**Róisín Kelly** was born in west Belfast and raised in Leitrim. After a year working as a handweaver on Clare Island and completing a Masters in Writing at NUIG, she now calls Cork City home. Her first chapbook, *Rapture* (2016), was described in the Los Angeles Review of Books as 'one of the most important collections of poetry the Irish literary canon has to offer.' Her first full collection of poetry, *Mercy*, was published by Bloodaxe Books in 2020.

[Register and Book Tickets Here](#)



**Friday**  
**24 April**  
13:00 Irish  
Standard Time  
[Livestream](#)

## Sara Baume & Sinéad Gleeson

In this unique time of lockdown, and social distancing, people are spending more time at home than they have in decades and are re-examining their relationships to their bodies, their home life and the quiet clockwork of a daily routine. Sara Baume and Sinéad Gleeson are two writers whose work will speak to many.

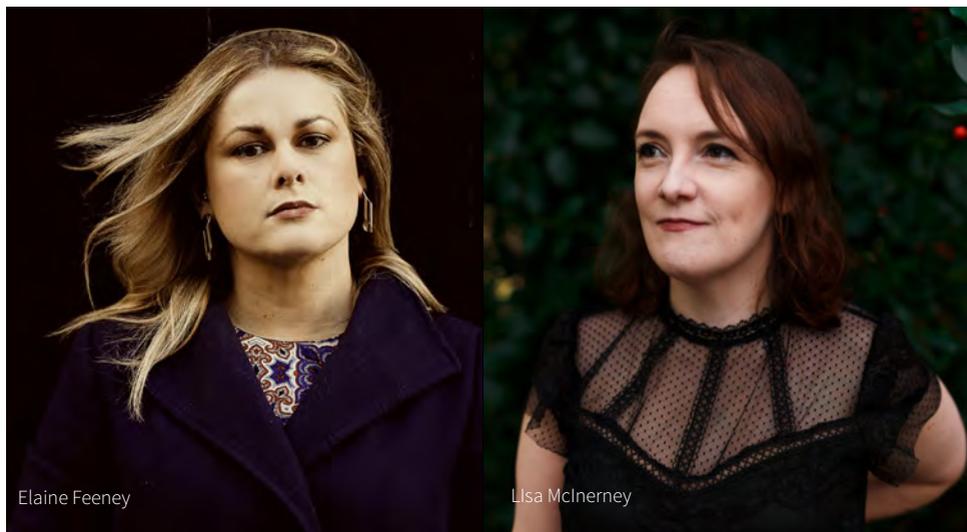
In *handiwork*, Baume charts the daily process of making and writing, exploring what it is to create and to live as an artist within the confines of her own home. Elegantly encompassing images and in itself a significant artifact, *handiwork* offers observations that are at once gentle and devastating on the nature of art, grief and a life lived well.

*Constellations*, Sinéad Gleeson's acclaimed collection of essays, looks to the body, that most fundamental thing that we all share, and through which we experience the world. How do you tell the story of a life in a body, as it goes through sickness, health, motherhood? In the tradition of some of our finest life writers, and yet still in her own spirited, generous voice, Sinéad takes us on a journey that is both uniquely personal and yet universal in its resonance.

**Sara Baume** won the 2014 Davy Byrnes Short Story Award and went on to receive the Hennessy New Irish Writing Award, the Rooney Prize and an Irish Book Award in 2015. Her work has also been longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, the Warwick Prize for Writing, the Desmond Elliott Prize for New Fiction and the International Dublin Literary Award, shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award and has won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize amongst others.

**Sinéad Gleeson** is a writer of essays, criticism and fiction. Her writing has appeared in *Granta*, *Winter Papers* and *Gorse*, and a story of hers will appear in *Being Various: New Irish Short Stories* published by Faber in May 2018. She is the editor of three short story anthologies, including *The Long Gaze Back: an Anthology of Irish Women Writers* and *The Glass Shore: Short Stories by Women Writers from the North of Ireland*, both of which won Best Irish Published Book at the Irish Book Awards. Sinéad has worked as an arts critic and broadcaster and has presented *The Book Show* on RTÉ Radio 1.

**Register and  
Book Tickets  
Here**



**Friday**  
**24 April**

17:30 Irish  
Standard Time  
[Livestream](#)

## **Elaine Feeney and Lisa McInerney**

Guest editors of the special Galway 2020 issue of *The Stinging Fly*, **Elaine Feeney** and **Lisa McInerney** come together for a conversation on craft, class and characters.

Part of the growing canon of Irish writers possessed of a sharp wit and a darkly comic sensibility, Feeney and McInerney will talk about their approaches to writing, striking the balance between dark and light, and what it's been like to work collaboratively as editors.

**Elaine Feeney** is a poet and novelist based in Galway. She has published three collections of poetry, *Where's Katie?* (2010), *The Radio was Gospel* (2013), *Rise* (2017) and a drama piece, *WRoNGHEADED* (2017), commissioned by Liz Roche Company. She teaches at The National University of Ireland, Galway and St Jarlath's College. Her work has been widely published and anthologised in *Poetry Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Irish Times*, *Copper Nickel*, *Stonecutter Journal* and others. *As You Were* (2020) will be her fiction debut.

**Lisa McInerney** is a novelist and writer from the West of Ireland. Her debut novel *The Glorious Heresies* (2015) won the 2016 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and the 2016 Desmond Elliott Prize. Lisa's second novel, *The Blood Miracles* (2017) won the 2018 RSL Encore Award. Lisa is currently a contributing editor at *The Stinging Fly*.

[Register and Book Tickets Here](#)



**Friday**

**24 April**

19:30 Irish

Standard Time

[Livestream](#)

## **Anne Enright**

in conversation with Rick O' Shea

In her first appearance at Cúirt since 2010, and her first digital Cúirt appearance, literary powerhouse Anne Enright returns with her latest novel, *Actress*. A moving and finely written novel, *Actress* brilliantly captures the glamour of post-war America and the shabbiness of 1970s Dublin and explores themes of fame, sexual power and the secrets that bind a family together. A scintillating examination of the corrosive nature of celebrity, it is also a sad and triumphant tale of freedom from bad love, and from the avid gaze of the crowd.

A Dublin native, **Anne Enright** has published widely, with six novels, two short story collections and one book of non-fiction to her name. She is perhaps best known for her expansive Man Booker Prize winning novel, *The Gathering* (2007) and *The Green Road* (2015), which won the Bord Gáis Energy Novel of the Year Award, though all her work is evergreen. In 2015 she was appointed as the first Laureate for Irish Fiction, and in 2018 she received the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature.

**Register and  
Book Tickets  
Here**



Melatu-Uche Okorie



Owodunni Mustapha



Jess Traynor

## Saturday 25 April

11:00 Irish  
Standard Time  
[Podcast](#)

## Ireland of the Welcomes: New Communities Writing Home

After years of emigration, Ireland is now home to more diverse communities who enrich our culture, yet immigration is not an equal experience for all. In a world of hardening borders, how do we make space for new definitions of Irishness and ensure that our society continues to grow and change? What can these writers tell us about our nation, more than a century after the birth of the state? And how can we best listen to the vital stories they have to tell?

Join writers **Melatu Uchenna Okorie** and **Owodunni Mustapha** to hear some of the best new writing Ireland has to offer and to share in their stories of what it means to find and make a place a home.

**Melatu-Uche Okorie** was born in Enugu, Nigeria and has been living in Ireland for twelve years. She has an MPhil in Creative Writing from Trinity College, Dublin. Her work has been published in *Dublin: Ten Journeys One Destination* (2010), *Alms on the Highway*, *LIT Journal*, *College Green Magazine*. Her debut collection, *This Hostel Life*, was published in 2018.

**Owodunni Mustapha**, popularly known as Ola, is from Nigeria, and is a graduate of Political Science and a mum of three. She is an asylum seeker currently living in Direct Provision in Ireland. She is a writer/aspiring poet and has had work published, including *Up the Hill in Mayo* (2019) and *Correspondences* (2019) and in the *MASI Journal*. She is the founder of Ballyhaunis Inclusion Project and last year won the Volunteer of the Year Award courtesy of Volunteer Ireland.

This panel will be moderated by **Jess Traynor**. Jess is a poet based in Dublin and the editor of *Correspondences* (2019), an anthology of writing by and for writers living in direct provision in Ireland, published by The Stinging Fly Press.

[Register and  
Book Tickets  
Here](#)



**Saturday  
25 April**

13:00 Irish  
Standard Time  
[Livestream](#)

## **Rob Doyle: Threshold**

Called 'riddling, irreverent and fearless' by the TLS, Rob Doyle's latest novel, *Threshold* is the perfect hair of the dog for those wishing to make a weekend of Cúirt and keep the party going.

In *Threshold*, Doyle's narrator (also named Rob) takes us on a lurid pilgrimage of cheap thrills and universal truth, from the menacing peripheries of Paris to the drug-fuelled clubland of Berlin, from art festivals to sun-kissed islands, through metaphysical awakenings in Asia and the brink of destruction in Europe, into the shattering revelations brought on by the psychedelic drug DMT. A celebration of art and ageing, sex and desire, the limits of thought and the extremes of sensation, *Threshold* confirms Doyle as one of the most original writers in contemporary literature.

**Rob Doyle** was born in Dublin. His first novel, *Here Are the Young Men*, (2014) was chosen as a Book of the Year by the Sunday Times, Irish Times, the Independent and was among Hot Press magazine's '20 Greatest Irish Novels 1916-2016'. Doyle has contributed to various publications including the Guardian, Vice and Dublin Review. He writes a weekly books column for the Irish Times and teaches Creative Writing at the University of Limerick.

[Register and Book Tickets Here](#)



Kei Miller



Carolyn Forché

**Saturday  
25 April**

17:30 Irish  
Standard Time  
[Livestream](#)

## Kei Miller and Carolyn Forché

**Kei Miller** is a poet, novelist, essayist, short story writer and broadcaster originally from Kingston, Jamaica. His many books include the novel *Augustown* (2016) and poetry collection *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion* (2014) which won the Forward Prize for Best Poetry Collection in 2014. In 2010, the Institute of Jamaica awarded him the Silver Musgrave medal for his contributions to Literature.

*In Nearby Bushes* (2019), his most recent collection is a wise, colourful and unflinching look at contemporary Jamaica; a world in which it is both possible to hide and to heal, a landscape as much marked by magic as it is by murder. Miller has fast become one of Britain and Jamaica's most revered poets. Of Miller, Poet Laureate of Jamaica, Lorna Goodison said '*Raise high the roofbeams, here comes a strong new presence in poetry*.' An incredible reader, he is not to be missed!

**Carolyn Forché** is a celebrated writer of poetry, essays and creative non-fiction. Her first collection in seventeen years, *In the Lateness of the World* (2020) is a tenebrous book of crossings, of migrations across oceans and borders but also between the present and the past, life and death. The poems call to the reader from the end of the world, where they are sifting through the aftermath of history. Carolyn Forché has witnessed, thought about, and put into poetry some of the most devastating events of twentieth-century world history and first coined the phrase 'poetry of witness'.

This event will be moderated by Jess Traynor.

[Register and Book Tickets Here](#)



**Saturday**

**25 April**

19:30 Irish  
Standard Time  
[Livestream](#)

## **Kevin Barry and Jan Carson**

In conversation with Peggy Hughes

Irish writing has always been disdainful of borders both imaginary and political, and that tradition is alive and well in the work of Jan Carson and Kevin Barry. Here we bring together two of Irish writing's leading voices for a unique conversation spanning their most recent work, how landscape situates a novel and the shaping of place through its language.

**Kevin Barry** is the author of the novels *Night Boat to Tangier* (2019), *Beatlebone* (2015), and *City of Bohane* (2011) and the story collections, *There Are Little Kingdoms* (2007) and *Dark Lies the Island* (2012). *Night Boat to Tangier* was long-listed for the 2019 Booker Prize and was named one of the New York Times Top Ten Books of 2019 and *City of Bohane* was awarded the International Dublin Literary Award in 2013. A new collection of short stories, *That Old Country Music*, will be published in October.

**Jan Carson** is a writer from East Belfast, Northern Ireland. She is the author of novels *Malcolm Orange Disappears* (2014) and *The Fire Starters* (2019), as well as the short fiction collections, *Children's Children* (Liberties Press 2016), and *Postcard Stories*, (Emma Press 2017). In 2018 she was the inaugural Translink/Irish Rail Roaming Writer in Residence on the Trains of Ireland. *The Fire Starters* won the EU Prize for Literature for Ireland in 2019.

[Register and Book Tickets Here](#)

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There are many ways to support our festival this year.

## 1 Become our friend on social media!

Follow us on Twitter or Instagram, like us on Facebook or sign up to our newsletter. Share our posts and tell your friends about us!

## 2 Sign up for an event!

Browse the programme and sign up to watch or listen to an event as part of Cúirt 2020.

## 3 Make a donation!

All our events are free, but if you wish, you can make a donation based on what you can afford. All donations received this year will go towards supporting the fees we pay our writers. [www.cuirt.ie/supportus](http://www.cuirt.ie/supportus)

### Join the conversation with #Cuirt2020



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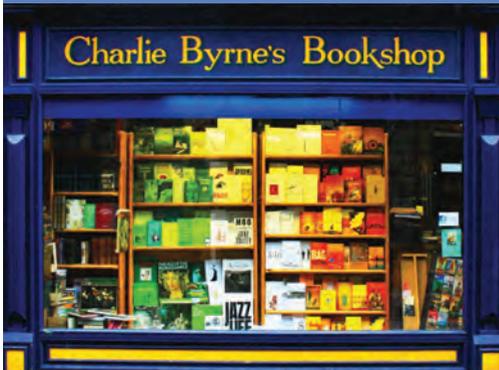
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**Cover Design** Maria Stoian