



## FUNDING PARTNERS

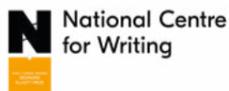


## FESTIVAL BOOKSELLER



CHARLIE BYRNE'S  
BOOKSHOP

## PROGRAMME PARTNERS



## MEDIA PARTNERS



CHARLIE BYRNE'S  
BOOKSHOP

## ACCOMMODATION PARTNERS



# A Welcome from Director, Sasha de Buyl



PHOTO: BOYD CHALLENGER

Fáilte roimhaibh chuig Cúirt 2021! Níl ach bhliain amháin thart ónár bhféile dheireanach, ach tá gach rud athraithe go mór.

It's hard to overstate how much has changed in the past twelve months, but what has been heartening for many, through isolation and immeasurable loss, is how much literature has endured as a source of comfort, joy, solace and celebration.

Building on what we achieved in 2020, this year brings a hybrid programme of events, broadcast live from Galway and recorded at the beautiful grounds of Ashford Castle – as well as some world class writers from distant shores. Over five action-packed days, we hope you'll fill your homes with brilliant stories and fascinating perspectives, and continue the conversations we started in our online festival community.

Our programme this year reflects the diversity of our changing world and the wealth of international and Irish writing talent that we've been lucky enough to read this past year. Many of the events we have put together look at how we connect with ourselves and our landscape (even if it's just 5km), and how we stay connected with each other – and, for those of you joining us from Galway, we have interactions that can only take place in person, such as our self-guided walking tour, *Inland Radius*, which will remain available after the festival for anyone hoping to visit our wee city in the future.

As a recently returned migrant to Ireland, it's been fascinating to rediscover this nation, learning what's changed and what remains rooted in the past. Many of our events ask essential questions for, and of, a contemporary Ireland, looking at the loss of language, those excluded from our official histories, and the legacy of institutionalisation.

We are, as a festival, committed to creating a space in which the broadest audience is empowered to engage with books and reading. This year's events will operate with Pay-What-You-Can ticketing (and subsidised places available on the few events that do have a cover price), and we will be rolling out captions for a broad range of our events (for more, see 'Accessing the Festival' on page 2).

Although we can't bring you the Cúirt exactly as we'd hoped this year, I am deeply proud of the programme we've assembled. Our small, but tireless and talented team have created a diverse, wide-ranging and forward-looking festival with truly brilliant writers at its heart. We hope you'll love it as much as we do.

# How to access the festival!

Getting to Cúirt has never been easier in 2021.

- 1 Browse the programme, using this brochure or our event listings online ([link](#))
- 2 Click through to buy your tickets and register for an event (and choose your Pay-What-You-Can ticket price!)
- 3 You'll receive an email with a link to view the event the day before it starts, and a reminder right before the event.
- 4 Tune in and enjoy!

## What's Pay-What-You-Can?

Cúirt is committed to ensuring that the broadest possible audience can enjoy our events in 2021. We're also keenly aware of what a difficult year 2020 has been, both financially and otherwise. As such, we have chosen to implement Pay-What-You-Can tiered ticketing for this year's festival events. Though we remain reliant on your support to make the festival a success and to support our artists this year, we feel strongly that no one should be excluded from the enjoyment books, reading and live events can provide at this time.

### If you are booking a ticket to an event, please consider the following:

- How much would you traditionally pay for a ticket to an event?
- Whether multiple people in your household will be enjoying this event.
- Your own financial situation.



## How to estimate what to pay with Pay-What-You-Can ticketing

### €0 - €2 PER EVENT

- I frequently stress about basic\* needs and don't always meet them.
- I have debt and it sometimes prohibits me from meeting my basic needs.
- I find renting difficult or have unstable housing.
- I sometimes can't afford public or private transport.  
If I own a car/have access to a car, I am not always able to afford petrol.
- I am unemployed or underemployed.
- I qualify for government and/or voluntary assistance including food banks and benefits.
- I have no access to savings.
- I have no or very limited expendable\*\* income.
- I rarely buy new items because I am unable to afford them.
- I cannot afford a holiday or have the ability to take time off without financial burden.

### €5 - €10 PER EVENT

- I may stress about meeting my basic needs but regularly meet them.
- I may have some debt but it does not prohibit attainment of basic needs.
- I can afford public transport and often private transport.  
If I have a car/access to a car I can afford petrol.
- I am employed.
- I have access to health care.
- I might have access to savings.
- I have some expendable income.
- I am able to buy some new items and I buy others second hand.
- I can take a holiday annually or every few years without financial burden.

### €10 - €15 PER EVENT

- I am comfortably able to meet all of my basic needs.
- I may have some debt but it does not prohibit attainment of basic needs.
- I own my home or property or I rent comfortably.
- I can afford public and private transport.  
If I have a car/access to a car I can afford petrol.
- I have regular access to healthcare.
- I have access to financial savings.
- I have an expendable\*\* income.
- I can always buy new items.
- I can afford an annual holiday or take time off.

\*Basic needs include food, housing, clothing and transportation.

\*\*Expendable income might mean you are able to buy coffee or tea at a shop, go to the cinema or a concert, buy new clothes, books and similar items each month, etc.



## Accessibility and Cúirt 2021

We hope to make our events as accessible as we can, so that everyone can enjoy the festival. All of our pre-recorded events will have closed captions available.

For our live events, we will try to support live transcription, or live captions, on demand.

If you are attending one of our events and would like to request captions for an event, please email [info@cúirt.ie](mailto:info@cúirt.ie) with the subject line, 'Captions on Demand'.

# Festival Planner 2021

● Irish Language Writer  
Irish Standard Time

All week	Inland Radius	p6
<b>TUESDAY 20</b>		
17:00	Conversations on Craft Max Porter with Sara Baume	p8
18:30	Conversations on Craft Maggie Nelson with Gail McConnell	p8
19:30	Poems for Patience	p7
<b>WEDNESDAY 21</b>		
17:00	Conversations on Craft Tishani Doshi with Jess Traynor	p9
18:30	Pathways to Publication	p9
19:30	ROPES Book Launch	P10
<b>THURSDAY 22</b>		
13:00	New Writing Showcase	p11
14:30	Brandon Taylor: Real Life	p12
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17:30	Viet Thanh Nguyen: The Committed	P14
19:00	Emma Dabiri: What White People Can Do Next	P15
20:30	Opening Night Event: 'The times were grand in size and we were small'	P16
<b>FRIDAY 23</b>		
13:00	The Disconnect: Roisin Kiberd with Joanna Walsh	p18
14:30	Mind Your Language: Having a Word with Ourselves	● P19

<b>FRIDAY 23</b>		
16:00	REIC le Ciara Ní É	● p20
17:30	Nora: Nuala O'Connor	P21
19:00	Sarah Moss and Danielle McLaughlin	p22
20:30	Alexander Chee and Carmen Maria Machado	p23
<b>SATURDAY 24</b>		
11:00	Billy O'Callaghan	p24
12:30	Bryan Washington: Memorial	p25
14:00	Finding Ourselves: Writing through the Queer Archive	P26
15:30	Disability Visibility	p27
17:00	Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe and Supriya Kaur Dhaliwal	p28
18:30	Necessary Sins: Mona Eltahawy with Leila Slimani	p29
20:00	Marian Keyes: Voice of a Nation	P30
<b>SUNDAY 25</b>		
11:00	Derek Owusu, Abi Daré and Okechukwu Nzelu	p31
12:30	The Alphabet of Birds	p32
14:00	Dinnseanchas/Tautitoto Whenua	● P33
15:30	Nithy Kasa, Raquel McKee and Kimberley Reyes	p34
17:00	Corpsing: Sophie White with Patrick Freyne	p35
18:30	The State of Her: The Future for Irish Feminism	p36
20:00	Douglas Stuart in conversation with Colm Tóibín	P37

The concept works with the nautical miles out to sea of each lighthouse. By turning the outward radius inland, we create an internal zone where a project emerges... we want to take people on a journey, giving everyone a chance to be creative and explore an area in a new way.

## Inland Radius

### Available throughout the week

Self-guided walking tour and zine

Come on a journey and find a new perspective on familiar paths. Guided by writer *Sarah Maria Griffin*, immersive theatre maker *Máiréad Ní Chróinín* and visual artist *Shane O'Malley*, you will follow a path featuring an audio tour, a bespoke zine and street art pieces, that maps a route from the Town Hall Theatre, Woodquay, to Mutton Island Lighthouse. Follow the trail in Galway City, or map the trail onto your own familiar path anywhere around the world. The lighthouse is calling. The trail is designed to give space for reflection, and to encourage an experience of our city and its environment in a fresh light. This unique, interactive artwork is inspired by Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* and the theme of personal journey.

The *Lighthouse Project* is an exploration of space and environment, and takes place in six counties in 2021, beginning in Galway. The programme is part of a wider EU project, entitled Spot-Lit, featuring innovative offerings in literature, from Scotland, Finland, Northern Ireland and Iceland. The Lighthouse Project is supported by The Western Development Commission, The Arts Council of Ireland and Galway City Council and is curated by Dani Gill. Cúirt International Festival of Literature is the Commissioning Partner of the Galway site.



## Poems for Patience

Join the **Poems For Patience** launch through Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7389013549>

Meeting ID: 738 901 3549

**Tue 20 April**

**19:30**

Irish Standard Time

*Poems for Patience* is an annual anthology of poetry by Irish and international poets in which poems are displayed in waiting areas throughout Galway's public hospitals. This year's selection will be shared with other hospitals in Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo and Donegal. In the past, the series has featured poems by leading Irish and international poets such as Seamus Heaney, Yrsa Daley-Ward, Jane Hirschfield, Tess Gallagher and Ailbhe Darcy. This year's selection has been kindly chosen by *Ciara Ní É*. An annual poetry competition was introduced by Saolta Arts in 2013 to give a platform for emerging poets to showcase their work alongside acclaimed writers. The winning entry *A Bolt of Happiness* by *Maurice Devitt* will be introduced by competition judge, *Kevin Higgins*. The event is kindly hosted by *Over the Edge*.

**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. Her work has been published in a variety of journals including *Icarus* and *Comhar*. Her first poetry collection is forthcoming.

**Kevin Higgins** is co-organiser of *Over The Edge* literary events and has published five full collections of poems. He has taught Creative Writing at Galway Technical Institute for the past fifteen years and is the Creative Writing Director for the NUI Galway International Summer School, and also teaches on the NUI Galway BA Connect in Creative Writing programme. Kevin's sixth book, *Ecstatic*, will be published by Salmon next summer.

**Saolta Arts** runs the west of Ireland's leading Arts and Health programme as a means of improving the hospital experience for patients, staff and visitors. They believe access to the arts promotes well-being and enhances the hospital environment.



## Conversations on Craft

Cúirt presents *Conversations on Craft*, a series of events to exercise the formal muscles of new and emerging writers at every stage of their development.



### Max Porter with Sara Baume

**Tue 20 April**  
**17:00** Irish Standard Time

**Max Porter** is a prose writer with a poet's sensibility. His slim, precise novels are renowned for their tactility, their uncanny, earthly manifestations of grief and loss, the unheimlich hidden in the homely. Max acted as Editorial Director of Granta Books for many years, and is the author of *Grief is the Thing with Feathers*, *Lanny* – soon to be adapted for film – and most recently *The Death of Francis Bacon*.

He is joined in conversation by writer and visual artist **Sara Baume**. She is the author of *Spill Simmer Falter*, *Wither*, *A Line Made by Walking* and *Handiwork*.

### Maggie Nelson with Gail McConnell

**Tue 20 April**  
**18:30** Irish Standard Time

**Maggie Nelson's** transgressive work challenges the taxonomies of poetry and prose, as it challenges conventional wisdom about gender, queerness, parenthood, consciousness and the body. A philosopher, a memoirist, an essayist, Nelson's work has been celebrated by numerous major awards in the States, and enjoys a large and passionate readership on this side of the water. We are honoured to welcome her to Cúirt ahead of her new book, *The Myth of Freedom*, due for publication in autumn 2021.

She is joined in conversation by poet, critic and academic **Gail McConnell**, whose debut full collection, *The Sun is Open*, will be published by Pinned in the Margins in September 2021.

A series of webinars with live Q&As, these events will see contemporary Irish writers take a forensic look at how some of the world's best writers make their craft sing. These focused, illuminating discussions on form, structure and the creative process are not to be missed.

These events will take place on Zoom Webinar and include a live Q&A.



### Tishani Doshi with Jess Traynor

**Wed 21 April**  
**17:00** Irish Standard Time

**Tishani Doshi** is a Welsh-Gujarati poet, novelist and dancer whose work thinks deeply about the alienations, connections, border-crossings and cultural exchanges inherent to modern living; questions of who we are and to whom we belong are never simple. Her work across genres also blends the disciplines of each, always working towards the healing of trauma, the voicing of the unspeakable. Her most recent books are *Girls are Coming Out of the Woods* (poetry) and *Small Days and Nights* (fiction), and both have been shortlisted for major prizes internationally. Her upcoming poetry collection, *A God at the Door*, will be published by Bloodaxe in April 2021.

She is joined in conversation by poet, critic and dramaturg **Jessica Traynor**, whose most recent poetry collection, *The Quick*, was published by Dedalus Books in 2019.

### Pathways to Publication

The Anne Kennedy  
Professional Development Event

**Wed 21 April**  
**18:30** Irish Standard Time

A unique opportunity to hear directly from senior professionals in the publishing industry, sharing their insights and advice into making a career as a writer. From the first work-in-progress to submitting to agents, publication and beyond, this panel encompasses a complete journey through a publishing landscape in unprecedented times. Our speakers will also discuss how the sector is beginning to address historical structural inequality in the industry, both behind the scenes and on the page – a healthy literary industry is one in which writers of all backgrounds can build careers.

We're joined by literary agent **Lucy Luck**, 4th Estate Books Editorial Director **Kishani Widyaratna**, and debut novelist **John Patrick McHugh** for this panel, chaired by **Sylvia Power**, whose MA in Literature and Publishing is ongoing at NUI Galway.

# ROPES

## ROPES Launch

The *ROPES Literary Journal* is an annual publication produced by students of the MA in Literature and Publishing in NUIG. This year will mark its 29th edition. As a publication, *ROPES* is dedicated to providing a platform for emerging creatives, hosting a range of work including poetry, short stories, fiction and non-fiction. Each year, you can also find stunning visual art incorporated throughout the publication.

Join the team for an exciting evening of literary chats to celebrate the launch of *ROPES* 2021. Spend an hour chatting to renowned Irish poet, **Kevin Higgins**, about writing during the pandemic and how to keep your creativity flowing. Come along and listen to writers speak about their work and get an insight into their creative processes. The team will also be answering any questions you may have about the publishing process.

Check out the *ROPES* social media for more information closer to the date. They can be found @ROPESLitJournal on Twitter and Instagram. Find them on Facebook at ROPES Literary Journal.

Wed 21 April  
19:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

## New Writing Showcase

Cúirt's annual showcase of emerging writers returns for 2021. Discover the best of new writing talent at the *Cúirt New Writing Showcase*. Presenting emerging voices in poetry and fiction, the Cúirt New Writing Showcase brings together writers involved in the Over the Edge Literary Series in Galway, the winners of the annual Cúirt New Writing Prize and our PENxCommon Currency Writer in Residence for a dynamic reading event.

Thu 22 April  
13:00  
Irish Standard  
Time



**Bern Butler** is a writer of prose and poetry from Shantalla in Galway. She has been short and long-listed in the Fish, Over the Edge and Listowel writing competitions and published in *Force 10*, *The Grey Castle*, *ROPES* and *Skylight 47*. She co-edited the first ever Irish anthology of prison writing, *Another Place*, and was the co-ordinator of the Writers in Prisons Scheme for ten years.



**Riona Mac Eoin** is the co-owner of Briarhill Vet Clinic in Galway City. She is very interested in psychology, specifically the influence our childhood years have on the development of our adult selves. She recently took a break from work where she discovered her love of writing and since has been writing fiction. Riona was a Featured Reader at the November 2019 Over the Edge: Open Reading in Galway City Library.



**Paul McCarrick's** poetry has been published in *The Blue Nib*, *Crannóg*, *Skylight 47*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, and elsewhere. He was selected to participate in the 2019 Poetry Ireland Introductions Series, and received an Arts Bursary Grant from the Westmeath County Council Arts Office in 2019.



**Suad Aldarra** is a Syrian storyteller, data scientist, and software engineer based in Dublin, Ireland. Suad is the Common Currency Writer in Residence for the festival and is currently writing a book about home and identity after being long-listed for the Penguin Random House WriteNow 2020 programme.

Winners of the 2021 Cúirt New Writing Prize for Short Fiction and Poetry will also feature.

With thanks to Kevin Higgins and Susan Millar DuMars at Over the Edge and our judges for the 2021 New Writing Prize, Stephen Sexton and Colin Barrett.



PHOTO BILL ADAMS - JIMENA GORRAEZ

## Brandon Taylor: Real Life

Thu 22 April  
14:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

Debut novelist *Brandon Taylor's* satirical, psychologically rich campus drama *Real Life* asks whether we can build relationships and find family even as we navigate, and recover from, our pasts, however complicated they may be.

Wallace is four years into a postgraduate biochemistry programme, in a life that's a world away from his childhood in Alabama. Following the death of his father, he is forced to weigh up his friendships and relationships to measure whether it's safe to let them in. *Real Life* is a deeply affecting story about the emotional cost of reckoning with desire, and overcoming pain.

**Brandon Taylor** is the senior editor of Electric Literature's Recommended Reading and a staff writer at Literary Hub. He holds graduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the University of Iowa. His first book, *Real Life*, was shortlisted for the 2020 Man Booker Prize for Fiction.

## Doomsday Books

Climate change makes itself known in increasingly catastrophic ways. Representative democracy is exploited and manipulated by the alt-right. The global pandemic has led to immeasurable loss. As our current moment unfolds, writers around the world have been preoccupied by end times in every genre and medium, but what draws them – and us, as readers – to these terrifying subjects in uncertain times?

Writers **Sue Rainsford**, **Paul Kingsnorth**, **Mark O'Connell** and **Sarah Davis-Goff** attempt to unravel why imagining the worst possible future helps us get through the present.

This is a live event.

Thu 22 April  
16:00  
Irish Standard  
Time



PHOTO BRIB O'DONOVAN

**Sarah Davis-Goff** is a writer and the co-founder of independent publisher Tramp Press. Her debut novel, *Last Ones Left Alive*, was nominated for the Edinburgh First Book Prize and the Not-The-Booker Prize, shortlisted for an Irish Book Award, and won the Chrysalis Award.



PHOTO RICH GILLIGAN

**Mark O'Connell** is the author of *Notes from an Apocalypse* and *To Be a Machine*, which won the Wellcome Book Prize and was shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford Prize and the Royal Society Insight Investment Book Prize.



**Sue Rainsford** is an author and visual arts writer based in Ireland. Her debut novel, *Follow Me To Ground*, received the Kate O'Brien Award. Her second novel, *Redder Days*, was released in March.



**Paul Kingsnorth** is a writer of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. His debut novel *The Wake* won the 2014 Gordon Burn Prize and was shortlisted for the Goldsmith's Prize. His most recent novel, *Alexandria*, was published by Faber in February.



## Viet Thanh Nguyen: The Committed

Thu 22 April  
17:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

We are absolutely delighted to welcome *Viet Thanh Nguyen*, one of the finest novelists at work in the English language today, to Cúirt in 2021. Following Nguyen's Pulitzer Prize for Fiction-winning debut novel, *The Sympathizer*, comes his much anticipated follow-up, *The Committed*.

Set in 1981 Paris, the (now ex-) spy protagonist of Nguyen's first novel finds himself at the lowest rung of Parisian society, working as a waiter and a hired hand for local organised crime. The ghosts of his past have followed him, however, as have the profound philosophical questions of family, belonging, selfhood and belief in a world that seems to deny him everything. Nguyen is a fascinating thinker and a peerless storyteller, and this event is not to be missed.

**Viet Thanh Nguyen's** novel *The Sympathizer* is a *New York Times* best seller and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Other honours include the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the Edgar Award for Best First Novel from the Mystery Writers of America, the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction from the American Library Association, the First Novel Prize from the Center for Fiction, a Gold Medal in First Fiction from the California Book Awards, and the Asian/Pacific American Literature Award from the Asian/Pacific American Librarian Association. His other books are *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* (a finalist for the National Book Award in nonfiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award in General Nonfiction) and *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America*. He is the Aerol Arnold Chair of English, and a Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California.



PHOTO: JERMAINE FRANCIS

## Emma Dabiri: What White People Can Do Next

Thu 22 April

19:00 Irish Standard Time

A work of history, sociology, philosophy and social commentary, *Don't Touch My Hair* explored in fascinating detail an aspect of anti-Black discrimination so commonplace as to be almost made invisible. *Emma Dabiri's* second book, *What White People Can Do Next*, is a challenge to all of us taking the first tentative steps of standing up against a society that still struggles to move past narratives of Irish national exceptionalism.

Though our history is one of colonial oppression, the Irish state – from immigration policy, to direct provision, to the housing crisis – seems all too ready to step into those colonialist shoes. Dabiri's book calls for more than gestures, thoughts and prayers, demanding education and substantial, sustainable action. This conversation with one of Ireland's sharpest, wittiest and most rigorous writers will be essential viewing.

**Emma Dabiri** is an Irish-Nigerian academic, activist, broadcaster and teaching fellow in the Africa department at SOAS and a Visual Sociology PhD researcher at Goldsmiths. Her 2019 debut *Don't Touch My Hair* was an Irish Times Bestseller and published to critical and commercial acclaim. The book also inspired a national conversation about race and hair and has led to changing regulations in schools and in the British army. A regular broadcaster on the BBC, Emma presented 'Back in Time Brixton' (BBC2), 'Britain's Lost Masterpieces' (BBC4), as well as the sociological experiment 'Is Love Racist?' (Ch4). Most recently, she hosted Radio 4's critically-acclaimed documentary 'Journeys in Afrofuturism'.



## Opening Night Event:

# 'The times were grand in size and we were small'

Eavan Boland

**Thu 22 April**  
**20:30**  
Irish Standard  
Time

In 2020, many of our most basic assumptions about connecting with each other have been profoundly challenged. In a time when physical contact is no longer safe, or when we are stranded from those we love, or when the electric charge of a first touch with someone new is indefinitely postponed, what we might once have taken for granted takes on new meaning.

Join us for the opening night of our 2021 festival where we will be joined by writers, thinkers, storytellers and musicians, reflecting on their experiences of finding, losing, and maintaining connection throughout the past year.

Our MC for the evening, **Louise Bruton**, will join author **Lisa McInerney**, storyteller and writer **Oein DeBhairduin**, non-fiction writer and mental health advocate **Arnold Thomas Fanning**, TikTok sensation and writer **Una-Minh Kavanagh**, songwriter **Maija Sofia** and data scientist and PENxCommon Currency Writer in Residence **Suad Aldarra** for what will be a diverse and fascinating snapshot of life in Ireland during the strangest year of our lives.

**Oein DeBhairduin** is a creative soul with a passion for poetry and preserving the literature of the Travelling Community. He is a board member of several Mincéirí community groups, including the Irish Traveller Movement and Mincéir Whidden. By pairing activism with cultural celebration, he retells old tales with modern connections.

**Una-Minh Kavanagh** is a Gaeilgeoir from Co. Kerry. Her book, *Anseo*, is about growing up in Kerry, the Irish language, identity and racism in 2019. Una-Minh now edits WeAreIrish.ie and is a member of the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth Committee. She also live-streams broadcasts in both English and as Gaeilge.

**Suad Aldarra** is a Syrian storyteller, data scientist, and software engineer based in Dublin, Ireland. Suad is the PENxCommon Currency Writer in Residence for the festival and is currently writing a book about home and identity after being long-listed for the Penguin Random House WriteNow 2020 programme.

**Maija Sofia Makela** is an artist from Co. Galway who works through music, performance and text in order to explore myth and mysticism; her debut album *Bath Time* was nominated for the RTÉ Choice Award Irish Album of the Year. She received a Next Generation Bursary for music in 2020 and is artist in residence at Sirius Arts Centre in Cobh, Co. Cork.

**Lisa McInerney's** debut novel *The Glorious Heresies* was published in 2015 and went on to win the 2016 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and the 2016 Desmond Elliott Prize. *The Blood Miracles*, was published in 2017 and the third book in the trilogy, *The Rules of Revelation*, will be released in May 2021.

**Arnold Thomas Fanning** was born in London and raised in Dublin. His stage plays include the acclaimed *McKenna's Fort*. *Mind on Fire* is his first book.



## The Disconnect: Roisin Kiberd with Joanna Walsh

*Roisin Kiberd's* highly anticipated collection of essays, *The Disconnect*, focuses on the ways we have evolved, and subsequently interact and live in, the High Age of the Internet. Drawing from her experiences in tech start-ups and online communities, Kiberd explores the digital lens through which we see culture and politics, both from a personal and universal perspective.

She will be joined by **Joanna Walsh**, fellow author, performance artist and winner of the Markievicz award, whose forthcoming books on internet culture, *Girl Online* and *On Screens: Living and Dying in an Age of Hyperaesthetics* will be published in 2022 and 2023, respectively. Kiberd and Walsh will discuss their upcoming publications, as well as their themes: connection, and how we navigate life in the digital age.

**Roisin Kiberd's** work has been published in *The Dublin Review*, *Stinging Fly*, *The Guardian*, *Vice UK* and *Motherboard*, where she wrote a column about internet subcultures. She lives in Dublin. *The Disconnect* is her first book.

**Joanna Walsh** is a multidisciplinary writer for print, digital and performance. The author of seven books including the digital work, *seed-story.com*. She has two books on internet culture, forthcoming from Verso in 2022 and 2023. She is the recipient of the 2020 Markievicz Award.



Fri 23 April  
13:00  
Irish Standard  
Time

## Mind Your Language: Having a Word with Ourselves

We're grand talkers in Ireland, and not many of us would consider ourselves Gaeilgoirs – but language doesn't develop in a vacuum; our unique blend of Hiberno-English, from 'We do be giving out' to 'You've it ruined', draws heavily from Irish sounds, syntax, rhythms and vocabulary.

Writers **Lisa McInerney**, **Manchán Magan** and **Darach Ó Séaghdha** come together to discuss the connections between Ireland's two languages, the many dialects that have sprung from this deep well and the writing that has emerged under this influence over centuries of use.

**Manchán Magan** is a regular contributor to *The Irish Times* and presents 'The Almanac of Ireland' on RTÉ Radio 1, as well as dozens of documentaries on issues of world culture for TG4, RTÉ & Travel Channel. His book, *Thirty-Two Words For Field*, explores the insights the Irish language offers into the landscape, psyche and heritage of Ireland.

**Lisa McInerney's** work has featured in *Winter Papers*, *The Stinging Fly*, *The Guardian* and *Granta*. Her debut novel *The Glorious Heresies* was published in 2015 and went on to win the 2016 Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction and the 2016 Desmond Elliott Prize. *The Blood Miracles*, was published in 2017 and the third book in the trilogy, *The Rules of Revelation*, will be released in May 2021.

**Darach Ó Séaghdha** is the host of the popular Irish language podcast, *Motherfoclóir*, and is the curator of the Twitter account @theirishfor. He is the author of two books, *Motherfoclóir* and most recently, *Craic Baby*, which explores the very new and very old parts of the Irish language from a personal perspective.

Fri 23 April  
14:30  
Irish Standard  
Time



## REIC le Ciara Ní É



Is oíche filíochta dhátheangach (agus in amantaí ilteangach!) í *REIC*. Cuirtear fáilte roimh an Ghaeilge i gcónaí, chomh maith le taispeántas i dteagnacha eile. Bíonn REIC ar siúl gach mí nó mar sin i mBÁC, agus ag féiltí timpeall na tíre — Electric Picnic, Body and Soul, agus IMRAM.

Geallann REIC a bheith ina tráthnóna dinimiciúil agus spreagúil, lán le filíocht agus ceol, le taispeántais ó **Osaro**, **Ellie O'Neill**, **Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha** agus **Darragh Ó Caoimh**. Beidh **Ciara Ní É** ann mar láithreoir.

Is file í **Ciara Ní É**. Foilsíodh saothar dá cuid in irisí éagsúla; *Aneas*, *Icarus* agus *Comhar* ina measc. Is ambasadóir í le hÁras Scríbhneoirí na hÉireann. Chomhbhunaitheoir an chomharghrúpa Aerach.Aiteach.Gaelach í. Tá a céad chnuasach filíochta idir lámha aici faoi láthair.

Is ócáid bheo í seo.

*REIC* (pronounced 'wreck') is a bilingual, and often multilingual, spoken word event featuring poetry, rap, music, storytelling and everything else you can think of! It provides a welcoming space where Gaeilge is encouraged. REIC is held monthly in Dublin and features at festivals such as Electric Picnic, Body and Soul and IMRAM.

Featuring performances from **Osaro**, **Ellie O'Neill**, **Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha** and **Darragh Ó Caoimh**, and MCed by **Ciara Ní É**, REIC promises to be a dynamic and exciting afternoon of poetry and music.

**Ciara Ní É** is the founder of REIC multilingual spoken word and an Irish Writers Centre ambassador. She has been published in journals including *Aneas*, *Icarus* and *Comhar*. She is a co-founder of LGBTQ+ arts collective Aerach.Aiteach.Gaelach. Her first collection is forthcoming.

This is a live event.

Fri 23 April  
16:00  
Irish Standard  
Time



## Nora: Nuala O'Connor

Galway native *Nuala O'Connor* returns to Cúirt to launch her latest historical masterpiece, *Nora*, into the world.

When Nora Barnacle, a twenty-year-old from Galway working as a maid at Finn's Hotel, meets young James Joyce on a summer's day in Dublin, she is instantly attracted to him, natural and daring in his company. But she cannot yet imagine the extraordinary life they will share together. All Nora knows is she likes her Jim enough to leave behind family and home, in search of more. *Nora* is a tour de force, an earthy and authentic love letter to Irish literature's greatest muse. Nuala will be joined in conversation by **Elaine Feeney**.

Fri 23 April  
17:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

An exceptional novel by one of the most brilliant contemporary Irish writers, this is a story of love in all its many seasons.

Joseph O'Connor

## Sarah Moss and Danielle McLaughlin

Fri 23 April  
19:00  
Irish Standard  
Time

Tune in to hear *Danielle McLaughlin* and *Sarah Moss* speak to *Edel Coffey* about the insidious twists and turns in their new novels, and the nitty-gritty of their immensely popular writing.

*The Art of Falling* is McLaughlin's first novel. Nessa is determined to get her life back on track after her husband's infidelity, putting the past behind her – only to be flung into a world of chaos by the arrival of two outsiders who threaten to expose the falsehoods of both her personal and professional life.

*Summerwater* is a devastating exploration of our capacity for connection and cruelty. Told over the course of twenty-four hours, it describes the narrative of twelve people cooped up in a cabin park in the Scottish Highlands on the longest day of the summer. Each member of the community slowly becomes aware of each other's movements as tensions rise, all unaware of the tragedy that is to come.

**Danielle McLaughlin's** short story collection, *Dinosaurs on Other Planets*, was published in 2015 by The Stinging Fly Press. In 2019, she was a Windham-Campbell Prize recipient, and won the Sunday Times Audible Short Story Award. Her first novel, *The Art of Falling*, was published in 2021 by John Murray.

**Sarah Moss** is the author of seven novels and a memoir of her year in Iceland. She teaches Creative Writing at UCD.



## Alexander Chee and Carmen Maria Machado

Contemporary writing seems increasingly unencumbered by the strictures of genre, and few authors have challenged these boundaries better than *Alexander Chee* and *Carmen Maria Machado*.

Fri 23 April  
20:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

Their bodies of work comprise short stories, novels, essays, literary non-fiction, lyric fragments; even listing these as discrete categories feels like a misrepresentation of two bodies of work that are always defiantly, inspirationally, a mode of writing all to themselves.

In **Alexander Chee's** first collection of non-fiction, *How to Write an Autobiographical Novel*, he explores the ways life, literature and politics refuse to disentangle themselves, how a life of reading and writing have fundamentally changed the person he has come to be. **Carmen Maria Machado** defies expectations with her innovative and engrossing memoir, *In the Dream House*. The book is a bold dissection of her experiences of domestic abuse, conducted with incredible wit and an inquisitive spirit. This event will be moderated by writer, educator and arts programme designer, **Shannon Yee**.

**Alexander Chee** is the author of the novels *Edinburgh* and *The Queen of the Night*, and the essay collection *How To Write An Autobiographical Novel*. He is an associate professor of English and Creative Writing at Dartmouth College, and lives in Vermont.

**Carmen Maria Machado** is the author of *Her Body and Other Parties*. Her second book, *In the Dream House*, was released in 2020 and has been shortlisted for the 2021 Rathbones Folio Prize. She is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and is the writer-in-residence at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where she lives with her wife.



## Billy O'Callaghan

Join historian and host of the Irish History Podcast, *Fin Dwyer*, in conversation with award-winning author *Billy O'Callaghan* as they explore the intertwining themes of Irish history and class that pervade Billy's new book, *Life Sentences*. Featuring the story of a young girl who, having survived the Great Famine, leaves her home of Cape Clear for the mainland, *Life Sentences* brings the reader on an unforgettable journey of survival that spans over the course of three generations.

**Billy O'Callaghan** is the author of four short story collections, most recently *The Boatman and Other Stories*, and three novels, including the internationally acclaimed *My Coney Island Baby* which was shortlisted for the Royal Society of Literature's Encore Award. He has won a Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Award for the Short Story and been a finalist for the Costa Short Story Award among numerous honours, and his books have been translated into a dozen languages. His latest novel, *Life Sentences*, recently published by Jonathan Cape, is a top 10 Irish fiction bestseller.

This is a live event.

Sat 24 April  
11:00  
Irish Standard  
Time

## Bryan Washington: Memorial

A thoughtful, witty and heartfelt debut novel, *Bryan Washington's Memorial* explores the challenges of intimacy, hard-won vulnerability and building relationships while dealing with your own shit.

Fans of Sally Rooney will enjoy *Memorial*, a story about relationships and what binds us together. When Mike finds out his estranged father is dying, he leaves to visit him in Japan just as his mother arrives to visit, leaving her in the incapable hands of his live-in boyfriend, Benson. He and Mitsuko become unconventional roommates, an absurd domestic situation that is at once moving and hilarious.

**Bryan Washington** is a writer from Houston. His fiction and essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *New York Times Magazine*, *The New Yorker*, the BBC, *Vulture* and *The Paris Review*. He is also a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 winner, the recipient of an Ernest J. Gaines Award, a PEN/Robert W. Bingham prize finalist, a National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize finalist, the recipient of an O. Henry Award and the winner of the 2020 International Dylan Thomas Prize.

Bryan is joined in conversation by **Paul McVeigh**.

Sat 24 April  
12:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

A new vision for  
the 21st-century  
novel. It made  
me happy.

Ocean Vuong

# Finding Ourselves: Writing through the Queer Archive

When your sexuality and gender have been struck from mainstream history, writing can seek to uncover and rebuild this erased past.

We're joined by (soon to be) Irish Queer Archive poet-in-residence **Seán Hewitt**, and writers **Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan**, **Kit Fryatt** and **Laura McGee** to discuss how a contemporary queer canon in Ireland serves to build a living history for LGBTQ+ writers today and what the existence of (and access to) a queer archive can do for future generations.

Spanning the many intersections of queer writing in Ireland today, our writers will also read their work and be joined in a discussion by moderator **Mark Ward**, poet and editor of international LGBTQ+ poetry journal, *Impossible Archetype*.

This is a live event.

Sat 24 April  
14:00  
Irish Standard  
Time



PHOTO BRID O'DONOVAN



**Seán Hewitt** is a poet, lecturer and literary critic. His debut collection, *Tongues of Fire*, was shortlisted for The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award. In 2019, he won an Eric Gregory Award, and he is also the winner of the Resurgence Prize, 2017. His memoir, *All Down Darkness Wide*, will be published in 2022.

**Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan** is a Dublin-based arts manager and writer from India. Her work has been published in *Writing Home: The 'New Irish' Poets*, *Hold Open the Door*, *Green Carnations: 25 Young LGBTQ+ Poets from Ireland*, *Banshee*, and *Poetry Ireland Review*. Chandrika was editor of Poetry Ireland's *Trumpet* issue 9.

**Kit Fryatt** is a writer and academic based in Dublin. He was born in Tehran in 1978 and lived in England, Singapore and Turkey before moving to Ireland in 1999. Kit lectures in English at Dublin City University and his most recent book of poetry is *Bodyservant*.

**Laura McGee** is an artist, writer and game-maker from Donegal. She is best known for her 2014 narrative *Curtain*, which follows the destructive relationship between two women in a Glasgow punk band, as well as the 2020 visual novel *If Found...*, which follows the story of a trans woman in 1993 returning home to Achill in the month before the end of the world.



## Disability Visibility

Sat 24 April  
15:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

Presented in partnership  
with Arts & Disability  
Ireland

We're delighted to welcome contributors to an essential anthology for disability rights, *Disability Visibility*. This collection of essays, memoirs and oral histories presents a vital snapshot of the vast range of experiences gathered under the umbrella term of disability, a galvanising insight into how many of us live, and how narrow a range of narratives tends to reach a national audience.

In partnership with Arts & Disability Ireland, we are joined by the anthology's editor, **Alice Wong**, and contributors **Eugene Grant** and **Alice Sheppard**. The conversation will be facilitated by **Jody O'Neill**.

**Alice Wong** (she/her) is a disabled activist, media maker, and Director of the Disability Visibility Project, an online community dedicated to creating, sharing and amplifying disability media and culture.

**Eugene Grant** is a part-time writer and activist in the dwarfism community, based in North East England.

**Alice Sheppard** is a dancer, choreographer and writer. Engaging with disability arts, culture, and history, she is intrigued by the intersections of disability, gender and race.

**Jody O'Neill** is an award-winning autistic writer and performer based in County Wicklow. Her work has a strong focus on disability advocacy and social inclusion.

Arts & Disability  
Ireland

Access Information: Open captions and ISL interpretation will be available for this event. For further access information for all events, see 'Accessing the Festival' page TBC/link.

## Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe and Supriya Kaur Dhaliwal

Sat 24 April  
17:00  
Irish Standard  
Time

Join *Tāpasya Narang* as she hosts a conversation between two Irish poets exploring love, travel and the life of the mind in Ireland in 2021. *Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe* and *Supriya Kaur Dhaliwal* will read from new books set for publication in the coming year.

**Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe** is a poet, pacifist and writer of fables. Her debut collection, *Auguries of a Minor God*, will be published by Faber in July 2021: its first half explores the five arrows of Kāma, the Hindu god of love, desire and memory, and its second half is a long narrative poem on war, displacement and migration.

**Supriya Kaur Dhaliwal's** poetry has appeared in *Ambit*, *Banshee*, *Poetry Ireland Review*, *The Bombay Literary Magazine* and many others. Her work is marked by its precise wit, its flaneur's eye for the feel of a place, its complex emotional realities that shine a light on life as a millennial under late capitalism. Her first book of poems, *The Yak Dilemma*, will be published by Makina Books later this year.



PHOTO GILLIAN HYLAND



## Necessary Sins: Mona Eltahawy with Leila Slimani

Sat 24 April  
18:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

Two of the foremost commentators on feminism and the Arab and Muslim worlds come together for what promises to be an electrifying conversation.

A lifelong political commentator and activist, **Mona Eltahawy's** *The Seven Necessary Sins for Women and Girls* is a call to arms for feminists across the world. Unflinching in its analysis of patriarchal violence, the book is bold and uncompromising, laying out a manifesto on how women and girls are compelled away from the very qualities that comprise their most powerful tools for liberation.

In contemporary Morocco, adultery, abortion, homosexuality, sex work and all non-marital sexual relationships are criminalised, often in the same legislative language of the French colonial occupation, and women face the harshest punishments of all. **Leila Slimani's** *Sex and Lies* confront these intimate demons with a series of vivid, often harrowing testimonies from Moroccan women, and her own passionate and sensitive analyses.

**Mona Eltahawy** is a feminist author whose writing and activism have earned her plaudits across the world. Her books, *Headscarves and Hymens: Why the Middle East Needs a Sexual Revolution* and *The Seven Necessary Sins for Women and Girls* have been translated into over a dozen languages.

Beside her career as a journalist and commentator, **Leila Slimani** is a celebrated novelist, and was the first Moroccan woman to win France's most prestigious literary prize, the Prix Goncourt.



## Derek Owusu, Abi Daré and Okechukwu Nzelu

Sun 25 April  
11:00  
Irish Standard  
Time

Presented in  
partnership with the  
Desmond Elliott Prize  
and the National  
Centre for Writing

This event showcases the shortlisted writers for the 2020 Desmond Elliott prize for new fiction, featuring some of the most exciting and challenging writing talent from across the UK and Ireland.

Crossing all manner of borders and boundaries, these three exceptional debuts explore the meaning of home, belonging and the growing pains of selfhood. **Okechukwu Nzelu's** *The Private Joys of Nnenna Maloney* follows a young woman's life and relationships through her Igbo-Nigerian family, and the misadventures of her extended social circle. **Derek Owusu's** fragmentary book *That Reminds Me* centres around K, the son of Ghanaian parents in London, from birth to adulthood, encompassing K's encounters with self-expression, friendship and belonging, in the midst of a society actively hostile to a Black working-class family. **Abi Daré's** *The Girl with the Louding Voice* is the story of Adunni, a young girl in rural Nigeria on the brink of an illegal marriage arranged to raise money for her widower father. The novel tracks Adunni's overwhelmingly rich inner life, as she searches for the kind of education that will meet her demands from the world.

## Marian Keyes: Voice of a Nation

Sat 24 April  
20:00  
Irish Standard  
Time

Funny,  
tender and  
completely  
absorbing!

Graham Norton

Long considered one of Ireland's best-loved writers, *Marian Keyes* comes to Cúirt for the very first time.

**Marian Keyes's** writing captures all of the complications of contemporary Ireland – shifting relationships, new ways of being a family, a changing world – recounted to you with all the warmth and joy of a knees-up with a close friend. Her novel, *Grown Ups*, charting the lives, challenges and secrets of the Casey family, was a tonic to many who turned to her fiction for solace and comfort in an unforeseeably challenging year. Not content with simply writing excellent books, Marian has more recently facilitated a free four-week novel writing course via social media, giving insight into her writing process and helping to take away some of the fear many feel when considering writing for the first time.

Hugely generous and irrepressibly funny, **Marian Keyes** is a force for good in the world, and in this event, we take a moment to celebrate everything she has achieved in her career so far and look ahead to what's next.

An international bestselling author of fourteen novels including *Watermelon*, *Rachel's Holiday* and *The Break*, **Marian Keyes** has sold over 40 million copies of her books worldwide. Her latest novel, *Grown Ups*, was published in February 2020.

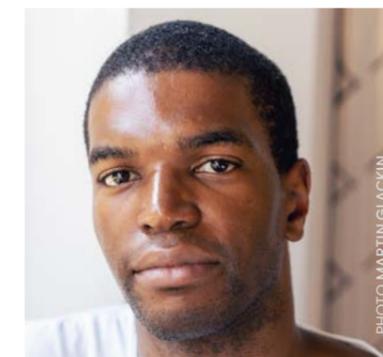
This is a live event.



**Derek Owusu** is a writer, poet and podcaster from North London. He edited and contributed to *Safe: On Black British Men Reclaiming Space*, and his first novel, *That Reminds Me*, was published in 2020. This went on to win the Desmond Elliott Prize for new fiction.



**Abi Daré** is a writer based in Essex, but originally from Lagos, Nigeria. *The Girl with the Louding Voice*, her first novel, won The Bath Novel Award for unpublished manuscripts in 2018 and was an instant *New York Times* bestseller upon publication.



**Okechukwu Nzelu** is a writer and teacher. His debut novel, *The Private Joys of Nnenna Maloney*, won a Betty Trask Award and was shortlisted for the Betty Trask Prize, the Desmond Elliott Prize and the Polari First Book Prize.

This event is moderated by 2020 Desmond Elliott Prize judge, broadcaster and journalist, **Sonia Sodha**.





## The Alphabet of Birds

Writer and artist *Sara Baume* covers wide ground in this spellbinding audio-visual essay: Sunday Mass and sea swimming; bird alphabets and stone collecting; Goya and Monet; the Stations of the Cross and the Sacred Heart of Jesus; bedrooms and bedsits; insomnia and parental love. Ultimately, it is a show about our obsessions and passions – the multitude of rituals that fill our daily lives with meaning.

Baume's new essay is inspired by short documentaries depicting artists at work on land and sea. These films, included in the show, focus on visual artists Gary Coyle and Laura Fitzgerald, and musician Natalia Beylis. A live soundtrack is performed throughout by musicians Irene Buckley and Elaine Howley.

*The Alphabet of Birds* is the second stage show from arts magazine and production company Holy Show.

Sun 25 April  
12:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

## Dinnseanchas/Tautitoto Whenua (Lore of Places/Reciprocal Songs of the Land)

Though the physical distance between the Irish and Māori languages could hardly be greater, this major new commission brings together four writers to delve into powerful connections between our cultures, landscapes, mythologies and colonial histories.

Celebrating the imaginative potential of both Gaeilge and te reo Māori, writers **Micheál Ó Conghaile**, **Máire Uí Dhufaigh**, **Hana O'Regan** and **Charisma Rungipunga** will present their *tautitoto whenua* (reciprocal songs of the land), testament to the vitality of two languages which, despite violent historical loss, continue to inspire and astonish.

Work will be read in the native language of each writer, with translations available online. The discussion between the writers will be conducted in English.

Is fada an t-achar é ó Éirinn go dtí an Nua-Shéalainn, ó theanga na nGael go teanga na Māori. Ach fiú má tá an dá thír is an dá thalamh ar chaon taobh den domhan ní shin le rá nach bhfuil cosúlachtaí idir an dá theanga. Is iomaí nasc cumhachtach is cosúlacht atá eatarthu... is idir an dá chultúr, an tírdhreach, an mhiotaseolaíocht, an stair choilíneach... an dinnseanchas.

Ainneoin an stair chorrach a d'fhulaing an dá theanga déanfar ceiliúradh ar shamhlaíocht acmhainneach na Gaeilge agus ar theanga na Māori i gcur i láthair nua cruthaitheach ó cheathrar scríbhneoirí **Micheál Ó Conghaile**, **Máire Uí Dhufaigh**, **Hana O'Regan** agus **Charisma Rungipunga** a léireoidh cumas agus cruas na dteangacha forásacha seo fós ainneoin buillí na staire.

Léifear saothair na scríbhneoirí go léir ina dteanga dhúchasach, le haistriúcháin ar fáil ar líne. Beidh an plé idir na scríbhneoirí seo déanta trí mheán an Bhéarla.

Sun 25 April  
14:00  
Irish Standard  
Time

Presented in partnership  
with Údarás na Gaeltachta,  
Cló Iar-chonnacht and  
WORD Christchurch

 Údarás na Gaeltachta





## Nithy Kasa, Raquel McKee and Kimberley Reyes

Sun 25 April  
15:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

Join us for a showcase of three of the most exciting poets at work in Ireland today. *Nithy Kasa, Raquel McKee and Kimberley Reyes* create insightful and provocative visions of life in Ireland in 2021, encompassing family histories, national myths, pop culture, political organising and the meaning of home, the points at which the life of the mind collides with the demands of the everyday.

These three artists are at early stages in their careers, yet have already made significant marks on the literary world: **Nithy Kasa** has been commissioned by Poetry Ireland and RTÉ; **Raquel McKee** has performed her poetry at the Northern Irish Assembly and the Black Lives Matter rally in Belfast; **Kimberley Reyes** has published three books in America and is in Cork as a Fullbright scholar, studying Irish literature and film.

This reading and discussion is an exciting and timely opportunity to hear from three enormously talented and fascinating poets.

## Corpsing: Sophie White with Patrick Freyne

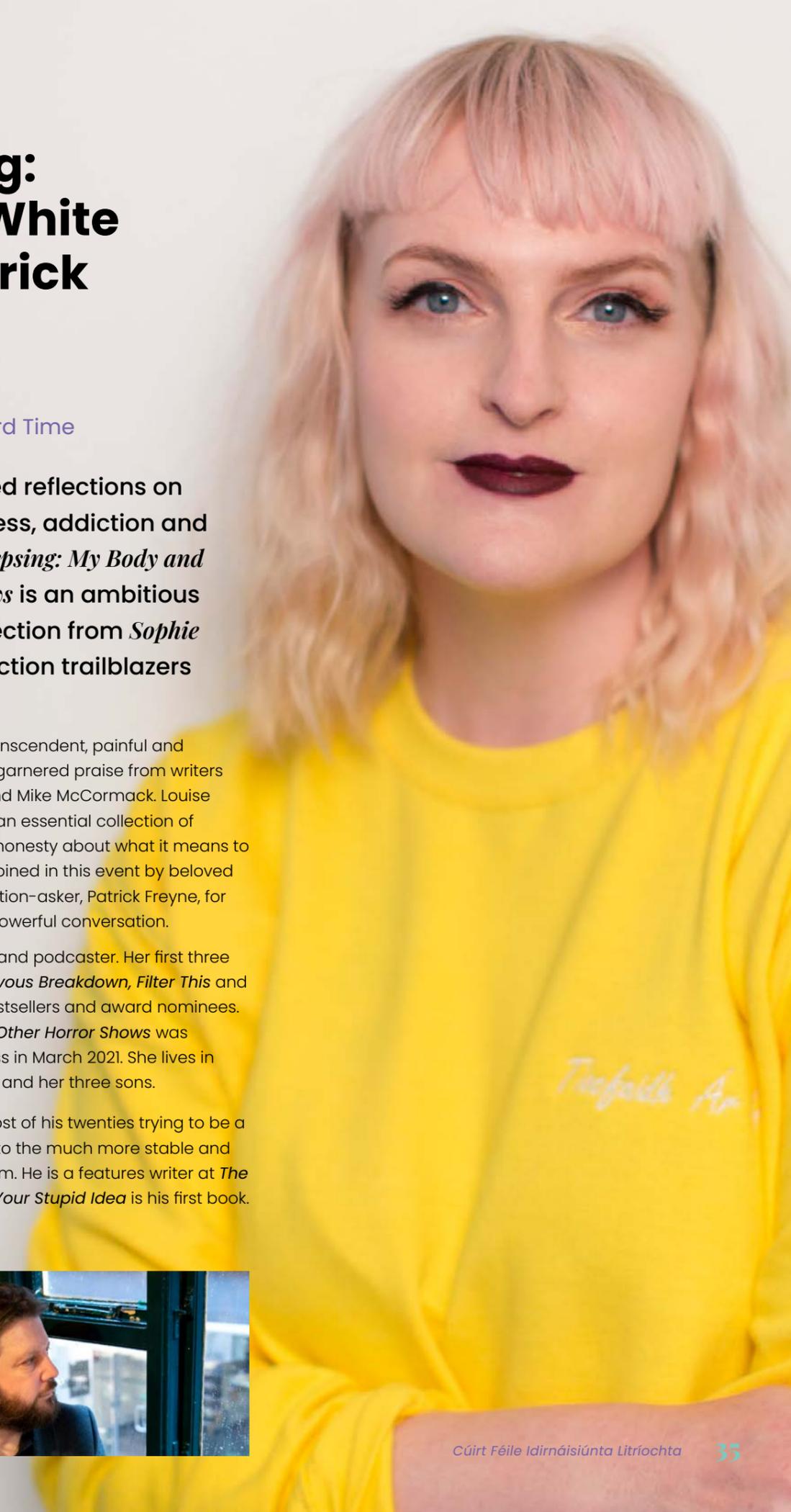
Sun 25 April  
17:00 Irish Standard Time

With sharp-witted reflections on grief, mental illness, addiction and motherhood, *Corpsing: My Body and Other Horror Shows* is an ambitious new literary collection from *Sophie White* and non-fiction trailblazers Tramp Press.

Hailed as 'earthy and transcendent, painful and powerful', *Corpsing* has garnered praise from writers such as Marian Keyes and Mike McCormack. Louise O'Neill has praised it as 'an essential collection of essays of brutal, flaying honesty about what it means to be a woman'. Sophie is joined in this event by beloved features writer and question-asker, Patrick Freyne, for what promises to be a powerful conversation.

**Sophie White** is a writer and podcaster. Her first three books, *Recipes for a Nervous Breakdown*, *Filter This* and *Unfiltered* have been bestsellers and award nominees. *Corpsing: My Body and Other Horror Shows* was published by Tramp Press in March 2021. She lives in Dublin with her husband and her three sons.

**Patrick Freyne** spent most of his twenties trying to be a rock star before turning to the much more stable and secure world of journalism. He is a features writer at *The Irish Times*. *OK, Let's Do Your Stupid Idea* is his first book.





## The State of Her: The Future for Irish Feminism

Sun 25 April  
18:30  
Irish Standard  
Time

Although some high-profile victories have been won regarding women's safety and wellbeing in Ireland in recent years, it seems clear that these movements have, in some places, failed to reach the most vulnerable women in Irish society. How far, really, have we come?

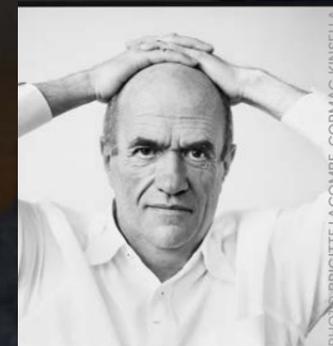
Between the women whose privacy was violated in the recent Discord leak, the untenable costs of reproductive healthcare, the women still struggling to survive the trauma of institutionalisation, and the daily harassment and violence faced by trans women and women of colour, it's clear that there is still much work to do.

Joining **Melatu Uche Okorie** in conversation are **Louise O'Neill** and **Caelainn Hogan**, two writers whose work interrogates, in very different forms, the history of discrimination, inequality, and violence against women that has become Ireland's legacy.

**Louise O'Neill** is a writer of books for young people and adults. Her first novel, *Only Ever Yours*, was released in 2014 and went on to win the Sunday Independent Newcomer of the Year award, the Eilís Dillon Award and the YA Book Prize. *After the Silence* was released in September 2020 and became an instant bestseller. It won the Crime Fiction Novel of the Year at the Irish Book Awards.

**Caelainn Hogan** is an Irish writer and journalist. Her first book, *Republic of Shame*, explores the ongoing legacy of Ireland's religious-run institutions. She has reported internationally on conflict, migration and inequality. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *VICE Magazine* and *The Washington Post*.

## Douglas Stuart in conversation with Colm Tóibín



Sun 25 April  
20:00  
Irish Standard  
Time

Cúirt is thrilled to welcome *Douglas Stuart*, winner of the 2020 Man Booker Prize for Fiction to the festival for the first time, in conversation with one of Ireland's greatest living writers, *Colm Tóibín*.

*Shuggie Bain* has been compared to Hanya Yanigahara's *A Little Life* and Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes*. The novel tells the story of the Bain family, struggling to make ends meet during post-industrial Glasgow's hardest years in the late 80s and early 90s. Agnes and her son, Shuggie, survive social instability, generational poverty, addiction and abuse, a world in which Shuggie must come of age with few role models and fewer means of escape.

**Douglas Stuart** was born and raised in Glasgow and graduated from the Royal College of Art in London before moving to New York to begin a career in fashion design. Besides the Booker Prize win, *Shuggie Bain* was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Kirkus Prize, and is set to be translated into over thirty languages.

You will never forget *Shuggie Bain*. Scene by scene, this book is a masterpiece.

Kirkus Reviews

## PENxCommon Currency Writer in Residency

Delivered in partnership with Cúirt, English PEN and PEN na hÉireann proudly present the Common Currency Writer in Residence programme.

Common Currency is a celebration of freedom of expression, and was created in the spirit of the PEN charter that 'literature knows no frontiers' to provide an opportunity for a writer from the MENA region, resident in Ireland, to become a writer in residence during the 2021 Cúirt Festival. Our 2021 Writer in Residence is **Suad Aldarra**.



## Cúirt Labs

Our Labs programme for schools returns in 2021! Creating digital workshop packs for schools across Galway city and county, Cúirt will bring writers, illustrators, storytellers and zine-makers directly into classrooms through workshop modules that schools can participate in during class time, within classrooms or at home.

There will be workshops for three age groups: 1st–3rd Class, 4th–6th Class, and Post-Primary (1st–3rd Year), as well as an Irish language workshop for all ages. These will be created by storyteller **Rab Fulton**, zine-maker **Mot Collins**, writer **Patricia Forde** and scríobhneoir **Bridget Bhreathnach**.

If you are a school or teacher and would like more information or to participate in this year's Labs programme, please get in touch via [aisling@cuirt.ie](mailto:aisling@cuirt.ie).



## Irish Writers Centre Young Writer Delegates

The Irish Writers Centre/Cúirt Young Writer Delegate programme gives young writers aged 18 – 26 the extraordinary opportunity to immerse themselves in the festival, as well as contribute to it as active participants.

The four selected young writers are given festival passes and full access to events; they will also participate in readings and be engaged in writing activities leading up to, during and after the festival, enabling them to be immersed fully in both the online and physical literary landscape. During the festival, the YWD are supported by an IWC facilitator and local writer-mentor to reflect on the festival programme and their experience with it, and to share their views via ILFD and the IWC's social media platforms.



## Cúirt New Writing Prize



The Cúirt New Writing Prize, kindly sponsored by Tigh Neachtain in memory of Lena McGuire, exists to nurture and showcase new writing talent across and outwith Ireland.

The competition runs annually in advance of the festival in two categories: poetry & short fiction. Judges for this year's New Writing Prize were poet **Stephen Sexton** and short story writer and author **Colin Barrett**. Keep an eye on the Cúirt website for updates about the 2022 competition!



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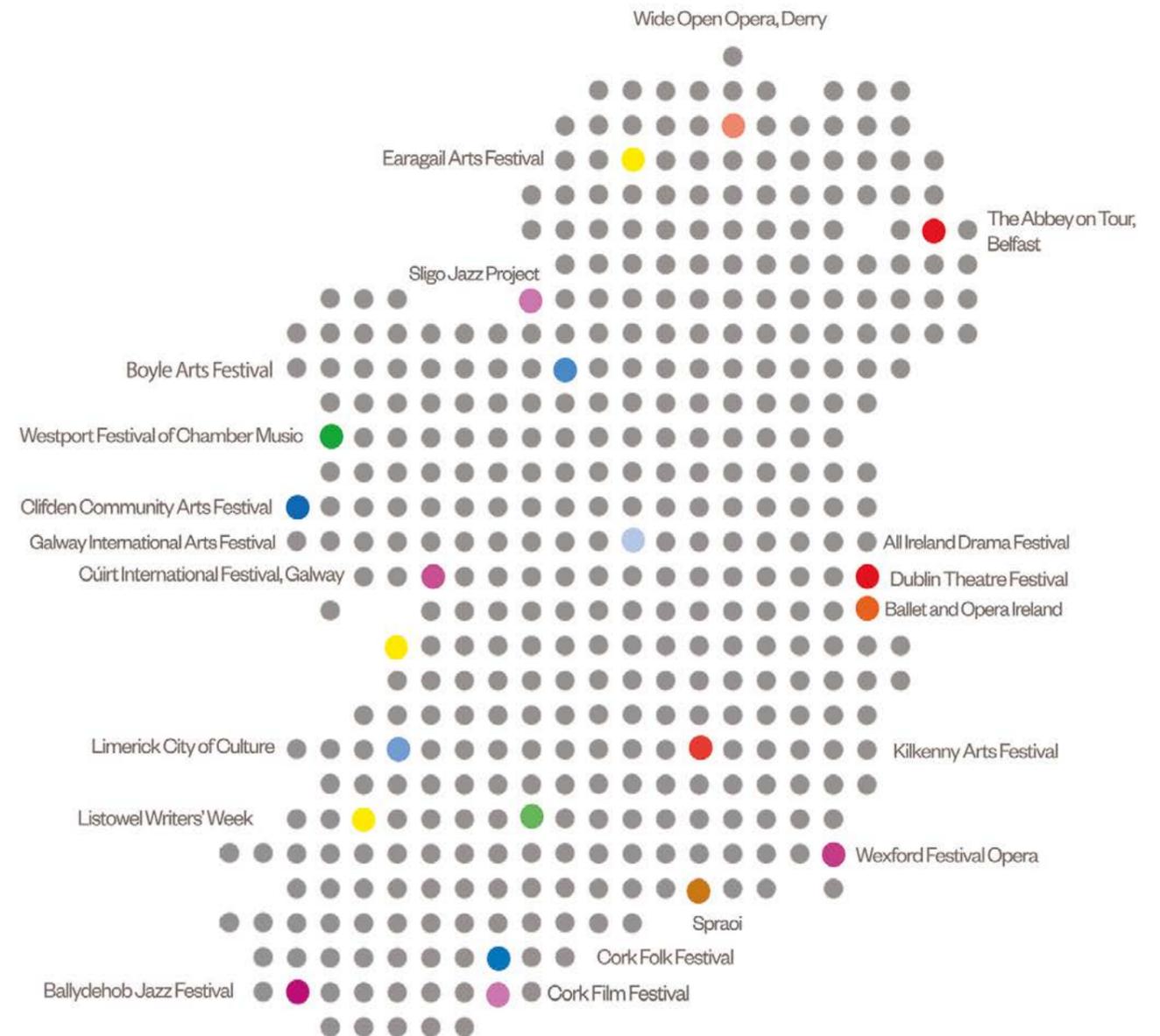
# Cúirt

International  
Festival of Literature  
Féile Idirnáisiúnta Litríochta

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## Cúirt Team

Director **Sasha de Buyl**

Programme Manager **Aisling O’Riordan**

Marketing and Communications Manager **Jane Hanberry**

PR **O’Doherty Communications**

Marketing and Communications Intern **Ruth Walsh**

Programming Intern **Natalia Huerta Guerrero**

Production and Administration Intern **Emily O’Brien**

Production Manager **Donal McNinch**

Design **Íde Deloughry, Clair O’Brien, Hillside Agency**

Illustration **Fatti Burke**

Photography **Boyd Challenger**

Cúirt is a project of the Galway Arts Centre.

## Thank you

Though these past two years have changed the landscape for Cúirt immeasurably, the festival would not have been possible throughout its 36-year history without the support of so many across Galway Arts Centre and Galway’s vibrant arts community. We’d like to thank everyone involved in Cúirt’s past and present, especially those who have moved on from their roles this past year, including Craig Steven, Gerry Hanberry, Claude Madec, Imelda Tierney, Michael Burke, Austin Ivers, Páraic Breathnach, Maeve Mulrennan, Sinéad Wynne, Liam Delaney and the wonderful and irreplaceable Mattie Hynes.

Additional thanks to all our supporters over the years including Mark ‘Banger’ Byrne, Gerard Butler, Patrick Coleman, Denis Browne, Simon Daly, Joe Kyne, Des Mulcahy, Martin O’Reilly, Seóna Ní Chonghaile, Jill Murray, Fiona Lawless, Leanne Oliver, Áine Lawless, Aoife Noone, Jack Gibbons, Lucy Kelly, Marie Folan, Fergal McGrath, Alex Fernie, Tracey Ferguson, Mark Elliott, Karen Sorensen, Aaron O’Dowling Keane, Naomi Cantwell, Kieron Smith, Rita McMahon, Stephen Cunniffe, Aoife Frehan Natsumi, Liam Delaney, Anthony Eggit, Tatjana Tserkassova, Brendan Quinn, Ciaran Murray, Andy Robinson, Órla O’Donoghue, Karen Arnold; Galway Arts Centre staff: Tara O’ Connor, Derval Byrne, Andrew Flynn, Karen Quinn and Siobhán Singleton; and to our Board of Directors: Fiona Neary, Vinny Browne, Katie Walsh, Mike O’Halloran, John Caulfield, Alannah Robins and Máiréad Feeney.