



Cúirt

International
Festival of Literature
Féile Idirnáisiúnta Litríochta

18-23 April 2023



Welcome to Cúirt International Festival of Literature 2023

It is a pleasure to present to you the 38th Cúirt International Festival of Literature: readings, discussions, and performances with world-renowned authors, and the very best in emerging talent. I hope that this programme allows for conversation, offers new perspectives, and helps you to share a love of literature with this city, discovering new writers and cherishing ones you already know.

Thank you to everyone who has helped make this festival happen: our festival team and volunteers, the Galway Arts Centre, our venues and venue staff, our booksellers, everyone who has offered help and advice, and above all, to all our wonderful authors, artists, and audience.

Manuela Moser
Director

Cúirt Team 2023

Festival Director

Manuela Moser

Festival Manager

Aisling O'Riordan

Marketing Officer

Aisling Dolan

Production Manager

Mark Carry

Admin Assistant

Mags Mullen-Hughes

Author Logistics Coordinator

Rita McMahon

Design

Stephen Connolly

Illustration

Charlot Kristensen

Festival Intern

Fernanda Ortega

PR

Kearney Melia Barker
Communications

Galway Arts Centre Team

Director & Curator

Megs Morley

General Manager

Tara O'Connor

Galway Youth Theatre Director

Andrew Flynn

Finance Manager

Karen Quinn

Front of House Manager

Siobhán Singleton

CE Supervisor

Derval Byrne

Board of Directors

John Caulfield (Chairperson),
Mike O'Halloran, Alannah Robins,
Celine Curtin, Mark Elliott, Sarah Lynch,
Vincent Browne, Sarah Searson,
Eithne Verling

Cúirt International Festival of Literature 2023

Tuesday 18 April

10:30	The Hardiman: An Amazing Story	p.5
12:30	Poems for Patience Launch	p.4
14:00	Poetry Masterclass with Colette Bryce	p.5
16:00	Too Much of Nothing	p.5
18:00	Queering the Green	p.6
19:30	Cúirt Festival Opening Party	p.4

Wednesday 19 April

10:30	Frames of Reference: Editing Poetry	p.6
13:00	Poetry Reading: Vona Groarke, Rachael Allen and Will Harris	p.6
14:00	Fiction Masterclass with Carmen Maria Machado	p.7
15:30	ROPES Launch	p.7
16:00	Too Much of Nothing	p.5
18:00	Telling Tales: Irish Emigrant Women in the 19th Century	p.7
20:30	Haunting Fiction	p.8
21:30	The Lifeboat Press Pamphlet Launch	p.8

Thursday 20 April

10:30	Frames of Reference: Art Writing	p.8
12:00	Kevin Higgins Memorial	p.8
13:00	Debut Novels: Maddie Mortimer, Luke Cassidy and Tice Cin	p.8
14:30	New Writing Showcase	p.9
16:00	Too Much of Nothing	p.5
16:30	Writing Collapse: Eco-poetry	p.9
18:00	None of the Above: Travis Alabanza	p.9
19:00	Fergus Cronin: Night Music	p.9
20:30	Bodies of Work: Carmen Maria Machado	p.10

Friday 21 April

10:30	Frames of Reference: Editing Fiction	p.10
12:00	Lessons in Kindness: a workshop with Dani Gill	p.10
13:00	Motherhood and Madness: Alice Kinsella and Jessica Traynor	p.10
13:30	Young Writer Delegates Showcase	p.11
15:00	Suad Aldarra and Derek Owusu	p.11
15:30	Dinnseanachas: Lore of Places	p.11
16:00	Too Much of Nothing	p.5
17:00	How to Build a Boat: Elaine Feeney Launch	p.11
17:30	The Land, The Self: Memoir and Nature	p.12
19:00	William Keohane: Boxing Day	p.12
20:30	Shy: Max Porter	p.12

Saturday 22 April

09:00	Shore Lines: Blackrock Readings and Sea Swim	p.13
11:00	Kid's Story Time with Fearghas MacLochlainn	p.13
11:30	well I just kind of like it	p.13
12:30	Bay Views: Writers on Wild Swimming	p.13
13:00	A Changing Climate: Writing, Activism and the Environment	p.14
14:00	Michael Magee: Close to Home	p.14
15:00	The Wonderful World of YA	p.14
16:00	Too Much of Nothing	p.5
16:00	Donal Ryan and Wendy Erskine	p.15
16:30	RISE and Fala da Terra: Film Screening	p.15
18:30	Poetry Reading with Tara Bergin, Eva Bourke and Pdraig Regan	p.16
20:00	Old God's Time: Sebastian Barry	p.17

Sunday 23 April

11:00	The Raven's Nest: Sarah Thomas	p.17
12:00	Kid's Story Time	p.13
12:00	Susannah Dickey and Nicole Flattery	p.17
14:30	Poor Little Sick Girls: lone Gamble	p.18
16:00	Too Much of Nothing	p.5
16:00	Sentimental Garbage Podcast Live with Emer McLysaght	p.18
17:00	The Arts and Culture of Galway since 1820	p.18
19:00	An Evening with Anne Enright and Louise Kennedy	p.19



Minimal Human Contact

Thursday 9 March | 20:00 | €12/€10
An Taibhdhearc

Le Naoise Ó Cairealláin, rapálaí duaisiúil leis an mhórghrúpa Kneecap. Tochlaíonn ár seó, aon duine, go domhain isteach i saol an chearrbhachais neamhshrianta, le torthaí cartairseacha a nochtadh. Glór úr ó Ghaeltacht uirbeach larthar

Bhéal Feirste – greanach, dian, agus i nGaeilge!

This one-man show delves deep into the world of compulsive gambling, to produce cathartic results. Gritty, intense and in Irish, this new play is written by Naoise Ó Cairealláin, award-winning rapper Moglaí Bap from KNEECAP.

Galway Arts Centre presents: Set to go by Benjamin de Búrca and Bárbara Wagner

10 March–22 April
 Open Monday–Saturday 10:00–17:00
Galway Arts Centre

Working together for a decade, Benjamin de Búrca (b. 1975, Munich, Germany) and Bárbara Wagner (b. 1980, Brasília, Brazil) are artists that produce films and video installations featuring protagonists engaged in cultural production as forms of resistance.

‘Set to go’ by artists Benjamin de Búrca and Bárbara Wagner, takes its title from ‘Faz que vai’ the name of a Frevo dance step from Pernambuco in Brazil. This dance step feigns a moment of imbalance where the body lurches forward only to stop on its heels, arms

spread wide to steady the action, before returning to the first pose. The works of Wagner and de Burca, brought together for the first time in this exhibition at Galway Arts Centre, are connected in their investigation of how traditions – as informed by colonial legacies – also teeters on its heels in a balance that must be performed, reperformed, fashioned and refashioned into the present.

Benjamin de Búrca and Bárbara Wagner have had recent solo exhibitions at the New Museum, New York (2022); Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2022); Kunsthall Stavanger, Norway (2021); Maison Européenne de la Photographie, Paris (2021).



Festival Club at Galway City Distillery Tuesday 18–Saturday 22 April 20:00–Late, Free entry

This year’s festival club will be hosted by the Galway City Distillery.

All audience and writers are invited to join us every evening to enjoy the beautiful bar and make the most of the hospitality on offer.

Poems for Patience Launch

Tuesday 18th April | 12:30 | Free, ticketed
University Hospital Galway

This year’s Poems for Patience will be selected and introduced by Paul Maddern. The poems, after featuring in an exhibition on the Arts Corridor in University Hospital Galway, are then displayed in waiting areas throughout Galway University

Meet us there at 19:30 Tuesday 18 April as we officially open Cúirt International Festival of Literature 2023, with music, refreshments and readings from special guests Elaine Feeney and Paul Maddern.

Hospitals and in 2023 will also be distributed to our public hospitals in Ballinasloe, Castlebar, Roscommon, Sligo and Letterkenny. Saolta Arts is hopeful that the poetry disseminated throughout the hospitals will give people pause for reflection and space for hope in both those joyful celebratory moments as well as the all too often times of pain or worry.

TOO MUCH OF NOTHING

**Too Much of Nothing: a play by
Mark O'Halloran and David Wilmot**

Tuesday 18–Sunday 23 April | 16:00 | €10
Tigh Neachtain

Two lovable losers from the margins of society grapple with their personal demons and confront what they

regard as the major preoccupations of the new millennium.

A site-specific production in an intimate setting starring Jarlath Tivnan and Peter Shine.

Directed by Andrew Flynn.

The Hardiman: An Amazing Story

Tuesday 18 April | 10:30 | Free

Oyster Bar, Hardiman Hotel

The Hardiman: An Amazing Story by William Henry celebrates the history of one of the most iconic buildings in Galway and the people who came together to make The Hardiman the magnificent hotel that it is today. Detailing the history of the hotel, from

when it opened its doors to welcome visitors to Galway with a luxurious experience, to the strong military presence the hotel had during the years of political unrest in the early twentieth century in Ireland, to the people who have stayed there, including actors, artists, royalty, sportsmen and politicians. Join William Henry to hear more about the intriguing history of The Hardiman.



**Poetry Masterclass
with Colette Bryce**

Tuesday 18 April | 14:00 | €25

Áras na nGael

Join acclaimed poet and editor Colette Bryce for a masterclass in which participants will receive feedback on their work and will engage in discussions on the work of their contemporaries.

Colette Bryce has published five collections, including *The Full Indian Rope Trick* (2004), *Self-Portrait in the Dark* (2008), and most recently *The M Pages* (2020). She is Poetry Editor at Picador and has previously served as editor for Poetry London and Poetry Ireland Review.

Places are strictly limited. Final registration is 1st April.



Queering the Green: Toby Buckley, Sarah Clancy and Colette Bryce introduced by Paul Maddern

Tuesday 18 April | 18:00 | €8/€6
Nuns Island Theatre

Queering the Green brings together 31 of the most distinctive queer Irish poets to emerge since 2000, representing the multiplicity and vibrancy of the queer experience in



21st Century Ireland. The poems in this anthology address the exclusions of the past, speak to the diversity of the present, and point towards the radical possibilities of the future.

Editor Paul Maddern will be hosting three poets from the anthology, Colette Bryce, Toby Buckley, and Sarah Clancy, who will read a selection of their work.



Frames of Reference: Editing Poetry with Colette Bryce, Rachael Allen and Stephen Connolly

Wednesday 19 April | 10:30 | €10/€8
Nuns Island Theatre

Poetry is a genre that can bring prestige to a publishing house and Poetry Editors are the agents of this cultural influence. But what does it take for a submitted manuscript to



become a slim volume in someone's bookshelves? Discover what makes a manuscript stand out, how lists are curated, and gain invaluable insight into how poetry collections are brought into the world. Join Colette Bryce of Picador and Rachael Allen of Granta, in conversation with Stephen Connolly of The Lifeboat Press, as they discuss the ins and outs of poetry publishing.



Poetry Reading with Vona Groarke, Rachael Allen and Will Harris

Wednesday 19 April | 13:00 | €8/€6
Nuns Island Theatre

'A collection of almost sublime purity' is how the *Dublin Review of Books* described Vona Groarke's *Selected Poems*, a book which surveyed her first two-and-a-half decades of published work. Her most recent book is *Hereafter: The Telling Life of Ellen O'Hara*, a blend of poetry, fiction and history that reflects on the life of an emigrant Irish woman in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Colm Tóibín described the new book as 'a groundbreaking way of investigating a traumatic period in history, not only Irish history, but American history too.'



At once intellectual and accessible, moving and experimental, and combining a linguistic innovation with a deep emotional rooting, *RENDANG* (2020), the first collection by London-based poet Will Harris, won the Forward Prize for Best First Collection and was shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize. His second book of poems, *Brother Poem*, was published by Granta in the UK and by Wesleyan in the US in March 2023.

Rachael Allen's highly-anticipated debut collection, *Kingdomland*, was published by Faber and Faber in 2019 and marked the arrival of a significant new voice in British poetry. Lauding *Kingdomland* in the *Sunday Times*, Jeremy Noel-Tod said you mustn't 'be fooled by this book's bright orange jacket: it's not cheerful, it's on fire'.

**Fiction Masterclass
with Carmen Maria Machado**

Wednesday 19th April | 14:00 | €25
Áras na nGael

Take this rare opportunity to learn from the internationally-acclaimed short story writer, essayist and critic Carmen Maria Machado, author of *Her Body and Other Parties* and *In the Dream House*.

In this talk, you will explore the craft of writing fiction that doesn't move—fiction contained in a single, discreet space as large as a house, and as small as a bed—and the implication it has for our understanding of gender, characterisation, plot, and time.

Places are strictly limited. Final registration is 1st April.



ROPES Launch

Wednesday 19 April | 15:30 | Free, ticketed
Nuns Island Theatre

ROPES is a literary journal produced annually by MA students at the University of Galway, and this year they are launching the 31st edition! The *ROPES* team is dedicated to showcasing a broad and inclusive

range of work by providing a platform to exhibit literature and art. *ROPES* is a non-profit journal, with the proceeds from each publication donated to a charity. This year, *ROPES* are proud to be supporting the Galway Rape Crisis Centre.

Entry is free, but booking is essential.



Telling Tales—Irish Emigrant Women in the 19th Century: Vona Groarke, Elaine Farrell and Leanne McCormick in conversation with Nuala O'Connor

Wednesday 19 April | 18:00 | €10/€8
Nuns Island Theatre

Bad Bridget: Crime, Mayhem and the Lives of Irish Emigrant Women is the astonishing product of years of meticulous work in various archives by leading historians Elaine Farrell and Leanne McCormick. It tells the stories of Irish women who sought new lives in North America becoming involved in crime of all sorts: from crimes of passion and opportunity, to calculated and daring acts of

transgression. Despite its basis in thorough academic research, it is an accessible work that became an instant best-seller in Ireland.

Acclaimed poet Vona Groarke's most recent book is *Hereafter: The Telling Life of Ellen O'Hara*, an innovative blend of poetry, fiction and history that reflects on the life of her great-grandmother, an emigrant Irish woman in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Colm Tóibín described the new book as 'a groundbreaking way of investigating a traumatic period in history, not only Irish history, but American history too.'



Haunting Fiction: Carmen Maria Machado, Sophie White, Camilla Grudova in conversation

Wednesday 19 April | 20:30 | €12/€10
Nuns Island Theatre

Sophie White's *Where I End* is the unsettling story of Aoileann, a young girl who never left the small island where she was born, and whose life revolves around taking care of

her bed-bound mother. Camilla Grudova's *Children of Paradise* also follows a lonesome, isolated young woman whose life takes a dark turn when she starts working at an old cinema in her city. Carmen Maria Machado's *Her Body and Other Parties* has been called 'a dark, shimmering slice into womanhood.'



The Lifeboat Pamphlet Launch with Dane Holt and William Keohane

Wednesday 19 April | 21:30 | Free
Galway City Distillery

Beginning as a series of poetry readings on a Dutch barge moored in Belfast, The Lifeboat Press has been publishing poetry in small pamphlets for almost a decade. They have championed emerging poets such as



Padraig Regan, Susannah Dickey and Scott McKendry, and, more recently major figures like Paul Muldoon and Leontia Flynn.

They will be launching new pamphlets by poets Dane Holt and William Keohane, accompanied by short readings from the new works.

Frames of Reference: Art Writing with Nathan O'Donnell and Padraig Regan in conversation with Meadhbh McNutt

Thursday 20 April | 10:30 | €10/€8
Nuns Island Theatre

Art writing draws together many art forms, from visual art to philosophy to (art) history and literature, to

create a genre that is as much about creative production as it is about critical discourse. Join Nathan O'Donnell (PVA Journal) and Padraig Regan (2021 winner of the Burlington Contemporary Art Writing Prize) as they discuss writing about, with and as art, with artist and writer Meadhbh McNutt.

Kevin Higgins Memorial

Thursday 20 April | 12:00 | Free, ticketed
An Taibhdhearc

Kevin Higgins was born in London in 1967. Along with his wife and fellow poet Susan Millar DuMars, he was founder and co-organiser of Over The Edge literary events in Galway, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2023. Kevin published six collections of

poems with Salmon Poetry, including *The Boy With No Face* and *Song of Songs 2:0: New & Selected Poems*. Kevin passed away in January, 2023 at the age of 55 following a short illness. In this multimedia event, special guests will celebrate Kevin's work as poet, teacher, organiser and satirist; an international tribute to one of Galway's own.



Debut Fiction: Maddie Mortimer, Luke Cassidy and Tice Cin in conversation with Derek Owusu

Thursday 20 April | 13:00 | €8/€6
Nuns Island Theatre

Maddie Mortimer's *Maps of Our Spectacular Bodies*, is a moving narrative about a woman dealing with terminal illness. In Luke Cassidy's *Iron Annie*, Aoife's life in



the underworld of Dundalk radically changes when she's brought together with Annie to dispose of ten kilos of cocaine. Tice Cin's *Keeping the House* is the story of Ayla, a gardener trying to keep her family afloat amid the heroin trade of North London.

In partnership with the Desmond Elliott Prize

New Writing Showcase

Thursday 20 April | 14:30 | Free, ticketed
An Taibhdhearc

We're delighted to share some of the finest emerging writers at work this year, so don't miss the chance to encounter some new names as they break onto the scene. This year's

new writers include selected writers from the Over the Edge Literary Series and Skylight 47: Fiona Hanley, John Noonan, Riley Johnston and Helen Flynn, as well as the winners of the annual Cúirt New Writing Prize: Jess Raymon (fiction), Liam Mac Peaircín (Irish language) and Lauren O'Donovan (poetry).



Writing Collapse: Eco-poetry with Daisy Lafarge, Emma Must and Selina Nwulu

Thursday 20 April | 16:30 | €8/€6
Nuns Island Theatre

Life without Air, Daisy Lafarge's T. S. Eliot shortlisted debut, is a compassionate and ecologically nuanced collection that finds a fresh way to explore humankind's role in environmental



chaos. Emma Must's *The Ballad of Yellow Wednesday* centres around a protest against a motorway extension in 1992 through Twyford Down, exploring the ways in which language reaches, saves, or fails to convince us. In Selina Nwulu's *A Little Resurrection* reflections on being and blackness are informed by empathy and intellectual curiosity, melding the golden light of Senegal with the harsh winds of Yorkshire.

Night Music: Fergus Cronin

Thursday 20 April | 19:00 | Free
Galway City Distillery

Launch of *Night Music*, the highly-anticipated debut short story collection by Fergus Cronin, published by Doire Press. In these tense, by turns troubling and uplifting stories, Cronin reveals the savagery, the tenderness

and the humour that is at the heart of human nature. Winner of the Maria Edgeworth Short Story Prize 2022, with this collection Cronin adds his voice to those of the finest contemporary Irish short story writers.

Introduced by Paul Fahy, Artistic Director, Galway International Arts Festival



None of the Above: Travis Alabanza

Thursday 20 April | 18:00 | €12/€10
An Taibhdhearc

'When you are someone that falls outside of categories in so many ways, a lot of things are said to you. And I have had a lot of things said to me.' In their latest book, *None of the Above*, Travis Alabanza examines

seven of the most impactful questions people have asked them about their gender identity. These phrases look at the broader issues of a society that pushes a gender binary and punishes those who 'dare' to exist outside of it. Travis will be in conversation with Julian Bernard, a member of the Small Trans Library Dublin.



Bodies of Work: Carmen Maria Machado in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson

Thursday 20 April | 20:30 | €12/€10
An Taibhdhearc

Carmen Maria Machado's body of work has earned her worldwide praise and numerous accolades for its genre-bending nature and its witty yet nightmarish approach to otherwise ordinary situations. In her critically acclaimed collection of short stories, *Her Body and Other Parties*, Machado gives urban legends a twist and redirects the reader's attention to the physicality of women's bodies

and the cultural and historical violence directed at them, raising questions more horrific than ghosts and spectres. Her memoir, *In the Dream House*, returns to the theme of the haunted house to talk about the author's experience with domestic abuse, each chapter told through the lens of a different literary genre, resulting in a raw narrative that defies the conventions of non-fiction. Machado writes beautifully about contemporary horrors, touching on queer and feminist issues with a revolutionary, eclectic style that has made her one of the most influential writers today.

Frames of Reference: Editing Fiction with Tice Cin and Max Porter in conversation with Tara McEvoy

Friday 21 April | 10:30 | €10/€8
Nuns Island Theatre

Transforming a first draft into a manuscript that's ready to submit to a publisher takes time, energy,

and dedication. Join Max Porter, former Editorial Director for Granta, and Tice Cin in conversation with *The Tangerine Magazine's* editor Tara McEvoy, as they delve into the intricacies of editing fiction and the unique relationship between writers and their editors.

Lessons in Kindness: a workshop with Dani Gill

Friday 21 April | 12:00 | €15
Coffeewerk and Press

Dani Gill leads a session based on her recently published second collection of poetry *Lessons in Kindness*. *Lessons in Kindness* is a collection exploring identity, sexuality, strength and vulnerability. Through a series

of losses and epiphanies, a young woman attempts to make sense of the lessons taught and learned. From the recent referenda in Ireland, to a landscape of women ghosts, *Lessons in Kindness* is a search for meaning and love, set against the backdrop of the wild Atlantic coast.

Dani will lead an informal workshop hosted by Coffeewerk and Press.



Motherhood and Madness with Alice Kinsella and Jessica Traynor

Friday 21 April | 13:00 | €10/€8
An Taibhdhearc

Alice Kinsella and Jessica Traynor discuss their latest works exploring the often-overlooked aspects of motherhood, and its many complexities and joys. *Pit Lullabies* (2022) is Jessica Traynor's third poetry

collection, where she explores, with visceral, intimate and witty poems, the many faces of motherhood. Alice Kinsella's debut in prose, *Milk* (2023), is an exploration of her pregnancy and the first nine months of her newborn baby's life. She paints an intimate picture on motherhood as she explores the generational experience and questions how this country has treated and portrayed its mothers historically.



Irish Writers Centre Young Writer Delegates Showcase

Friday 21 April | 13:30 | Free
Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

Now in its sixth year, the IWC Young Writer Delegates Programme has partnered once again with Cúirt International Festival of Literature. During the festival period, four selected writers between the ages



Suad Aldarra and Derek Owusu in conversation with Sarah Clancy

Friday 21 April | 15:00 | €8/€6
Nuns Island Theatre

Cúirt is delighted to welcome Suad Aldarra and Derek Owusu to discuss the meaning of home, the importance of belonging and the challenge of pushing borders and boundaries. Suad Aldarra's debut memoir, *I Don't Want to Talk About Home*, is the captivating story of how she was forced to flee war-torn Syria in 2012, as well as a moving reflection on the struggles of building a new life in Ireland.

of 18 and 26 will be welcomed to the programme by the Irish Writers Centre.

At this showcase, the four selected Irish Writers Centre/Cúirt Young Writer Delegates will share some of the creative work developed during the festival with their mentor, Alan McMonagle.



In his latest novel, *Losing the Plot*, Derek Owusu, driven by a deep-seated desire to understand his mother's life before he was born, offers a powerful imagining of her journey from Ghana to the UK, and how she navigated parenthood in a strange and often lonely environment, to interrogate how the effects of displacement are felt across generations. Told in a genre-bending, impressionistic style, Owusu explores the pain of migration and the importance of telling stories, to others and ourselves, in hopes to make sense of them.

Dinnseanchas: Lore of Places, moderated by Micheál Ó Conghaile

Friday 21 April | 15:30 | €10/€8
An Taibhdhearc

Dinnseanchas – seo tionscadal ar cuireadh tús leis dornán blianta ó shin le nasc a chruthú idir scríbhneoirí Gaeilge Gaeltachta as Éirinn agus scríbhneoirí Māori na Nua-Shéalainne chun iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar an dinnseanchas: miotais, an tírdhreach, an béaloideas agus an stair choilíneach atá coitianta ina gcultúr éagsúil agus mar a thagann na gnéithe sin chun cinn ina saothar cruthaitheach scríbhneoireachta. Cuirfidh beirt scríbhneoirí ó Ghaeltacht na Rinne, Áine Uí Fhoghlú agus Ógie Ó Céilleachair, a saothar nuachumtha iláthair.

Dinnseanchas is a project inspired by the lore of places, bringing together writers from Ireland and New Zealand to delve into powerful connections between our cultures, landscapes, mythologies and colonial histories. Began in 2021, this project has so far commissioned six writers to share their practice and develop new work. This is the second phase of the project, and will feature work created by Áine Uí Fhoghlú and Ógie Ó Céilleachair.

In partnership with Ealaín na Gaeltachta, Cló Iar-chonnacht and WORD Christchurch.



How to Build a Boat Book Launch Elaine Feeney in conversation with Sinéad Gleeson

Friday 21 April | 17:00 | €10/€8
Kenny's Bookshop

Elaine Feeney returns to Cúirt to launch her second novel, *How to Build a Boat*. With tender prose and vivid imagery, Feeney introduces us to 13-year-old Jamie O'Neill, whose

two biggest ambitions are to build a Perpetual Motion Machine and to connect with his mum, Noelle, who died when he was born. *How to Build a Boat* is the story of how Jamie's mission transforms the lives of those in his community. Elaine will be joined in conversation by Sinéad Gleeson.

Join us in the festival club that evening to toast Elaine's book.



The Land, The Self: Memoir and Nature with Manchán Magan, Seán Hewitt, Amanda Thomson

Friday 21 April | 17:30 | €12/€10

Town Hall Theatre

Join Manchán Magan, Amanda Thomson and Seán Hewitt as they reflect upon the ways in which memoir and nature intertwine in their work. From the Swedish lakes to the



pinewoods of Abernethy, through the bogs, rivers and mountains of Ireland, these three exquisite writers capture landscapes in unique ways, revealing the human stories that lie within the land. This event will explore the ways in which the personal interacts with the environment, and plumb the depths of what it means to be alive today.

Boxing Day with William Keohane

Friday 21 April | 19:00 | €8/€6

Nuns Island Theatre

Boxing Day is a 52 poem sequence, offering fragmentary glimpses into the experience of gender transition, and read together they form a narrative account of a year of change, apprehension, and grief. William interrogates the

relationship between the poet and audience through this moving, personal performance, offering us a commanding, urgent story about the interpersonal scrutiny when existing in the world as a trans person, through dynamic and curious poetry.

This performance is accompanied by projected visuals and text.



Max Porter: Shy

Friday 21 April | 20:30 | €16/€14

Town Hall Theatre

From the award-winning author of *Grief is a Thing with Feathers* and *Lanny*, Max Porter's breath-taking new novel *Shy* tells the story of a troubled teenage boy caught between the ghosts of his past and the enormous questions his future

holds. Escaping from a home for 'very disturbed young men', *Shy's* internal monologue flits between the past and present, recounting tales from his childhood that have led him to this point, backpack of rocks on his back, climbing through the wilderness.

Join us for a special performance of this work, followed by a Q&A.

Shore Lines: Blackrock Readings and Sea Swim

Saturday 22 April | 9:00 | Free
Blackrock Diving Tower

Join us for an early morning festival swim in Salthill. Writers Emily Hasler, William Keohane and Chantal Thomas will give short readings inspired by the ocean before we swim. Don't forget your swimsuit and a towel!



well I just kind of like it with Wendy Erskine, Susannah Dickey, Jan McCullough and Nathan O'Donnell

Saturday 22 April | 11:30 | €8/€6
Outset Gallery

well I just kind of like it, edited by Wendy Erskine, is a collection of writing and images about art in the home and the home as art. This

Kid's Story Hour

Saturday 22 April | 11:00 | Free
Sunday 23 April | 12:00 | Free
Charlie Byrne's Bookshop

Charlie Byrne's Storytime sessions featuring the best in Irish authors and illustrators. Saturday's reading will include scéaltaí as Gaeilge le scríobhneoir Feargas MacLochlainn! Storytime is open to all ages.



publication exhibits the human impulse to curate, showing that what we choose to collect and display in the home – spoons, plates, photographs, rugs, prints – makes it a place of self-expression, and a place of one's own. This publication sheds light on the stuff of the home in a vital and compelling way.



Bay Views: Writers on Wild Swimming with Chantal Thomas, Emily Hasler and Vanessa Earl in conversation with William Keohane

Saturday 22 April | 12:30 | €10/€8
An Taibhdhearc

Writers and swimmers Chantal Thomas, Emily Hasler and artist and swimmer Vanessa Earl will be joined in conversation by William Keohane, as they dive into the connections between swimming and creativity, wild bodies of water, and writing.

Chantal Thomas's memoir, *Memories of Low Tide*, recounts a visit to her mother, a life-long swimmer, in a coastal town in France. Thomas embarks in a journey of self-discovery



through the exploration of her surroundings, maritime geography, coastal culture and swimming. Emily Hasler's latest poetry collection, *Local Interest*, tackles the rapid changes of rivers and landscapes as they face natural and manmade threats. These poems explore the south Suffolk and north Essex landscapes, and the connections between the permanent and the ephemeral, in both nature and life, in a world that feels at the brink of disaster. Vanessa Earl is currently working on a multidisciplinary collaboration called SALT, between the swimming community of Galway, musician Robbie Blake and poet Mary Madec, that celebrates our connection to the sea.



A Changing Climate: Writing, Activism and the Environment with Manchán Magan, Eoghan Dalton and Emma Must in conversation with Ceara Carney

Saturday 22 April | 13:00 | €12/€10

Town Hall Theatre

Writers and activists Manchán Magan (*Thirty Two Words for Field*

and *Listen to the Land Speak*) Eoghan Dalton (*An Irish Atlantic Rainforest*) and Emma Must (*The Ballad of Yellow Wednesday*) discuss the environmental challenges that we face today, and the role that language plays as witness to our impact on Earth.



The Wonderful World of YA with Caroline O'Donoghue, Clara Kiyoko Kumagai, Adiba Jaigirdar, in conversation with Mary Watson

Saturday 22 April | 15:00 | €10/€8

An Taibhdhearc

Young Adult Fiction addresses many of the most urgent, and entertaining, matters in the collective consciousness. Join three of the most exciting YA novelists writing today, as they discuss their new novels, and the ways in which YA can change perspectives and influence the young people of today.

Caroline O'Donoghue's *Every Gift a Curse*, the final book in the acclaimed, dark fantasy trilogy *All Our Hidden Gifts*, follows Maeve in her final attempt to defeat the Housekeeper and save her hometown, in a magical



adventure filled with tarot, romance, parallel dimensions, and an evil far-right group who threaten everything.

Catfish Rolling, Clara Kiyoko Kumagai's debut novel blends magical-realism with Japanese myth and legend, in a story about Sora, a teenage girl, who's quest to rescue her mother in the aftermath of an earthquake, leads her to places unknown, where time distorts and the unhuman exists.

Adiba Jaigirdar's upcoming novel, *The Dos and Donuts of Love*, is a funny, contemporary romance that follows Shireen Malik, as she participates in a reality-TV baking show. Shireen is willing to give it all to win and help her parents' donut shop get noticed, even if it means competing against her ex-girlfriend, Chris.



Close to Home: Michael Magee in conversation with Louise Kennedy

Saturday 22 April | 14:00 | €10/€8

Nuns Island Theatre

Michael Magee's debut novel, *Close to Home*, is a luminous and devastating portrait of modern masculinity, as shaped by class, trauma, and silence, but also by the courage to love and to survive.

Drawing from his own experiences, Michael Magee examines the forces which keep young working class men in harm's way, in a debut novel which shines with intelligence and humanity on every page. *Close to Home* is an extraordinary work of fiction about deciding what kind of a man you want to be and finding your place in the scarred city you call home.



Donal Ryan and Wendy Erskine

Saturday 22 April | 16:00 | €12/€10
Town Hall Theatre

Donal Ryan's *The Queen of Dirt Island* is a story that explores the challenges of the Aylward women as they make their way in a rural community in 1980s Ireland. Ryan has crafted a powerful story about love, grief and the bonds that last generations.



In Wendy Erskine's latest collection of stories, *Dance Move*, Belfast comes to life with colourful and complex characters. Erskine's characters and stories are at times funny and devastating, and explore the kind of wisdom that can only be found by looking at the ordinary through new eyes.

Supported by Dubray Books



RISE and Fala da Terra: Film Screening

Saturday 22 April | 16:30 | Free
Nuns Island Theatre

Galway Arts Centre in partnership with Cúirt presents a special screening of two works, *RISE* (2018) and *Fala da Terra* (2022) by artists Benjamin de Burca and Bárbara Wagner in association with their solo exhibition Set to go in the Galway Arts Centre March 10–April 22.

RISE (2018) investigates the musical universe of a community of young poets, rappers, and singers who meet weekly at a community center in Scarborough, on the outskirts of Toronto, Canada. *RISE* – acronym for "Reaching Intelligent Souls

Everywhere" – is a movement created by the Canadian poet Randell Adjei around the practice of spoken-word, which since 2012 organizes meetings where poetry and music are used to share stories and personal experiences.

Fala da Terra (2022) (Voice of the Land). This work features the practice of Coletivo Banzeiros, a theatre group composed of members of the *Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra* (Landless Workers' Movement). The organisation has been fighting for for land reform and against social inequities affecting rural workers in Brazil for forty years.



**Poetry Reading with Eva Bourke,
Tara Bergin and Padraig Regan**

Saturday 22 April | 18:30 | €12/€10

An Taibhdhearc

Eva Bourke, is the author of seven poetry collections, most recently *Seeing Yellow* (2018), in which the poet offers empathy and historical awareness through illuminating and honest language. The Irish Times described Eva's poems as suggesting 'that the soul is an enduring gentleness in us, in others, in perhaps everything, and that it needs us to release it, to let it breathe, to nourish it with what we create rather than destroy.' Eva is a member of Aosdána.

Tara Bergin's third collection *Savage Tales* brings the riddle, song and dialogue together to form a series of formally inventive, blackly comic

sequences that are both compelling and puzzling. These poems 'seem to quiver with a strange, uncanny sense that something is always about to happen' notes The Poetry Society. Tara Bergin's second collection *The Tragic Death of Eleanor Marx* was shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize.

'To look up from Padraig Regan's words is to find oneself gently re-fitted into the world' is how Anthony Capildeo describes the work in the Forward Prize shortlisted *Some Integrity*. This collection redefines the Irish lyric tradition, weaving art, food, desire, and the porous and provisional nature of our bodies together into playful and philosophical poetry.

Presented in association with Poetry Ireland



**Old God's Time: Sebastian Barry
in conversation with Claire-Louise
Bennett**

Saturday 22 April | 20:00 | €16/€14
Town Hall Theatre

Cúirt is delighted to welcome renowned and acclaimed Irish author Sebastian Barry to the 2023 festival to celebrate his new novel *Old God's Time*, where a retired policeman,

settling into his new home comes to terms with parts of his past he would rather forget. With soulful and beautiful prose, Barry weaves together mystery, love, loss and memory in a story where nothing is as it seems.

Supported by the British Library

**The Raven's Nest: Sarah Thomas
in conversation with Dani Gill**

Sunday 23 April | 11:00 | €8/€6
Outset Gallery

The Raven's Nest (2022) is an exploration of how a week-long trip can change the course of a life, the light and language of Iceland, and the old wooden house they make their home. It is a meditation

on place, identity in an era of environmental disruption.

This event is inspired by the Icelandic tradition of *kvöldvaka*, and you are invited to bring along knitting, mending, and crafting projects to work on during the event.

*Kindly sponsored by Stiches
Alterations and Haberdashery*



**Common Decency is Nothing Special:
Susannah Dickey and Nicole Flattery**

Sunday 23 April | 12:00 | €10/€8
Nuns Island Theatre

Join Susannah Dickey and Nicole Flattery in conversation as they discuss their most recent books, *Common Decency* (2022) and *Nothing Special* (2023). Writing in deft, wry and witty voices about love, regret, desire and coming of age, these two writers navigate the novel in complex and strange ways.

Nicole's *Nothing Special* tells the story of a young woman, Mae, entering the complex world of Andy Warhol's



Factory and coming of age in 1960s New York. When Mae drops out of school she is hired, quite accidentally, as a typist in the Factory, and upon finding this world discovers friendship, independence, and the surreal subculture of the moment.

Susannah's *Common Decency* follows the lives of two women living in the same building, each wrestling the sorrows and spectres of love and loss. Lily has recently lost her mother and is struggling with the concept of life without her; Siobhán is entangled in an affair with a married man. The ways in which their lives intertwine will shock and surprise to the end.



Poor Little Sick Girls: Ione Gamble in conversation with Áine O’Hara

Sunday 23 April | 14:30 | €10/€8
Nuns Island Theatre

Ione Gamble, Founder of *Polyester* zine and a host of The Polyester Podcast, never imagined that entering adulthood would mean being diagnosed with an incurable illness. From the confines of her sickbed Ione

began to pick apart our obsession with self-care, personal branding, productivity and #LivingYourBestLife. Using her experience with disability to cast a fresh gaze on the particularly peculiar cultural moment in which young women find themselves, *Poor Little Sick Girls* explores the pressures faced – as well as the power of existing as an unacceptable woman in our current era of empowerment.

The Arts and Culture of Galway since 1820

Sunday 23 April | 17:00 | Free, ticketed
Nuns Island Theatre

Two hundred years of Galway’s history is explored in a lavishly-illustrated volume edited by John Cunningham and Ciaran McDonough, and with contributions from thirty-eight writers. Starting with James

Hardiman’s *History of Galway* (1820), the volume looks at representations of the city in art and literature, as well as local endeavour in a variety of areas – music, theatre, language, dance, architecture. To mark the launch of the book, the editors will discuss Galway’s cultural life with a panel of contributors including Anna Falkenau and Prof. Lionel Pilkington.



Sentimental Garbage: Podcast Live with Caroline O’Donoghue and Emer McLysaght

Sunday 23 April | 16:00 | €12/€10
Town Hall Theatre

Caroline O’Donoghue hosts a live episode of her hit podcast about the culture we love that society can sometimes make us feel ashamed of, with special guest Emer McLysaght,

co-author of the *Aisling* series of novels.

Sentimental Garbage is about the stories that women create that are often undervalued, with episodes about Nora Ephron, the high-street, Mariah Carey, and costume dramas, this is a podcast about not knowing the most, but feeling the most.



**Anne Enright and Louise Kennedy
in conversation with Glenn Patterson**

Sunday 23 April | 19:00 | €16/€14

Town Hall Theatre

We are delighted to welcome two of Ireland's finest contemporary writers, Anne Enright and Louise Kennedy, for the final event of Cúirt 2023. Their work shares themes of family, compassion and fracture, and a needling towards

the depth of human – especially women's – experience.

Anne Enright, the inaugural Laureate for Irish Fiction, has been described by the *New Yorker* as a 'rich, lyrical prose writer, who cascades among novelties—again and again, finding the unexpected adjective, the just noun.' From a debut short story collection *The Portable Virgin*, to



the Booker winning *The Gathering*, and more recently, *The Green Road* and *Actress*, Anne's elegant and scrupulous voice transports us through funny, bleak and engrossing literature.

Louise Kennedy's work has been described in the *Guardian* as 'salty and wise', as holding a rare quality in fiction, 'a sense of utter conviction'.

From her debut short story collection *The End of the World is a Cul de Sac*, to her novel *Trespases* (Novel of the Year 2022 – An Post Irish Book Awards), Louise's sharp and vivid writing gives us tender, authentic stories.

Join Anne and Louise in conversation with Glenn Patterson, as they discuss the themes that compel them, and share their experiences of writing.

the HARDIMAN

1852



Take time out at the Hardiman

PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE

CÚIRT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE

The Hardiman is an iconic landmark hotel, perfectly positioned overlooking Eyre Square, in the heart of Galway city. A hotel steeped in history and romance, this Grand Old Lady is the epitome of effortless charm and timeless elegance. Stay and enjoy award winning food and Galway city on your doorstep. All our food is prepared using the finest Irish produce and seasonal ingredients. The hotel is within strolling distance of all the best amenities that Galway has to offer. From bars and theatres to restaurants and historical sights, you are right in the centre of the city's bohemian social scene. The Hardiman is also the perfect base from where to explore the Wild Atlantic Way. Discover the Cliffs of Moher, the Burren, the Aran Islands and the wild beauty of Connemara.

CALL OR EMAIL TODAY TO BOOK YOUR GALWAY CITY BREAK



091 564 041 info@thehardiman.ie thehardiman.ie

Stephanie Dufresne Dance / Galway Dance Project

AFTER LOVE

Performed and Choreographed by Stephanie Dufresne in collaboration with Lewis Wilkins.
Written by Dani Gill directed by Laura Sheeran.

Black Box Galway
Saturday 1st April 8pm



fieldarts



TOWN HALL
THEATRE

Tickets €18/€16 | www.tht.ie | 091 569 777

stitches

ALTERATIONS & HABERDASHERY



WOOL - CROCHET - FABRIC - BUTTONS - CRAFTS

INFO@STITCHES.IE | 091-539854

23 Eyre St, Galway, H91 YV48

Irish
citylink

gobus.ie



Galway to
Dublin City
& **Airport**

Book online at citylink.ie/gobus.ie



DECADENT
18 VENUE
NATIONAL
TOUR
3 MAY - 10 JUNE
2023

Donal Ryan's FROM A LOW AND QUIET SEA

SUBTLE AND GRIPPING
The Guardian

A DEEP THEATRICAL RESONANCE
The Irish Times

**NOT A MOMENT, A NUANCE,
A GESTURE IS LESS THAN PERFECT ...**
THIS PLAY WILL HAUNT YOU.
Irish Independent

Directed by **Andrew Flynn**

TOWN HALL THEATRE

Wed 3 May 8pm

Booking 091 569777 | www.tht.ie

AND THEN TOURING www.decadenttheatrecompany.ie

arts
council
of
ireland
ealaíon

funding
architecture

Cornhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe
Galway City Council

Tigh Neachtain
Galway

Cosy, all-wood pub with food
from a stylish restaurant upstairs,
open fireplaces & live music



17 Cross Street, Galway City

(091) 568 820

www.tighneachtain.com



Charlie Byrne's
-BOOKSHOP-

The Cornstore, Middle St., Galway

Charlie Byrne's Bookshop



TEL. (091) 561 766

www.charliebyrne.com | info@charliebyrne.com



Right Price Ink

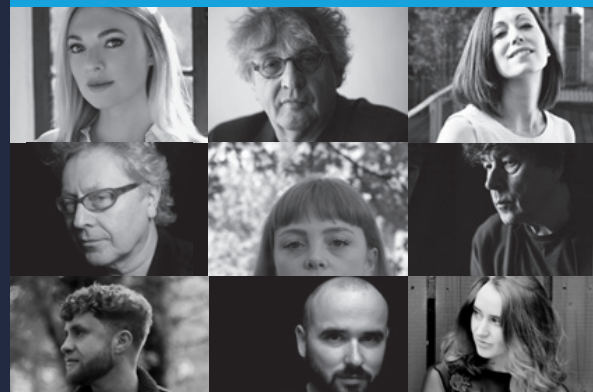
Toner-Inkjet-Office-Print

SHOP ONLINE OR INSTORE
091 563000
www.rightpriceink.ie

- Printing ■ Photocopying ■ Scan ■ Binding
- Office Supplies ■ Stationery ■ Furniture
- Printers ■ Inkjet & Toner Cartridges

VISIT US: 44 Dominick Street Lower, Galway, H91WKV9

**BEST
PRICES**



**LISTOWEL
WRITERS'
WEEK**

Ireland's Oldest Literature Festival
31st May - 4th June 2023

writersweek.ie



IT ALL
HAPPENS HERE

CRAFT DISTILLERY, DRINK SCHOOL & BAR
IN THE HEART OF GALWAY CITY



1-3 MERCHANTS RD, GALWAY,
H91 ATOV +353 (0)87 380 9614
GALWAYCITYDISTILLERY.IE

Funding Partners



funding
literature



Programme Partners



SKYLIGHT 47



Bookseller



CHARLIE BYRNE'S
BOOKSHOP

Media Partners



Travel



Accommodation Partners



Business Partners



**CLASSIC
TILES**
ESTD. 1989

**lettertec
books**



**FAHERTY
PAINTS**

Right Price Ink
Toner-Inkjet-Office-Print

Ticket Booking information

Book online at tht.ie or cuirt.ie

Box Office: Town Hall Theatre,
1 Courthouse Square, Galway

+353 (0)91 569 777

Pricing

Ticket prices vary for each event.

All orders over 5 tickets will receive
10% off.

Concession prices are offered to
those under 18 years, students, senior
citizens, the unwaged, or those on a
low income.

We have a limited number of free
and discounted tickets on hold:
please email info@cuirt.ie for more
information. These will be allocated
on a first come first served basis.

Stay in Touch

cuirt.ie
[@cuirtfestival](https://twitter.com/cuirtfestival)
[#cuirt2023](https://twitter.com/cuirt2023)