

Wigtown POETRY PRIZE 2022



In association with The Gaelic Books Council, Moniack Mhor, Saltire Society, Scottish Poetry Library, StAnza

WIGTOWN PRIZE £1500
RUNNER-UP £200

WIGTOWN SCOTS PRIZE £500
RUNNER-UP £200

WIGTOWN SCOTTISH GAELIC PRIZE £500
RUNNER-UP £200

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY FRESH VOICE AWARD

PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT INCLUDING MENTORING BY WIGTOWN FESTIVAL COMPANY AND A RETREAT AT MONIACK MHOR CREATIVE WRITING CENTRE

ALASTAIR REID PAMPHLET PRIZE

PRODUCTION OF A PAMPHLET SET BY GERRY CAMBRIDGE

INVITATION TO READ AT STANZA 2023

A WINNER FROM ONE OR MORE CATEGORIES WILL BE SELECTED TO READ AT STANZA, SCOTLAND'S INTERNATIONAL POETRY FESTIVAL



CLOSING DATE: 10 JUNE 2022

For more information, rules or to enter online please visit www.wigtownpoetryprize.com
www.facebook.com/WigtownPoetryPrize or telephone 01988 402036

Wigtown
POETRY
PRIZE
2022

THE JUDGES



WIGTOWN PRIZE
AND ALASTAIR REID
PAMPHLET PRIZE

Vahni Capildeo



WIGTOWN
SCOTS PRIZE

Brian Holton



WIGTOWN
SCOTTISH GAELIC
PRIZE

Anna C Frater

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY
FRESH VOICE AWARD

Open to emerging poets living in or originating from Dumfries & Galloway who have never professionally published a full-length collection.

ALASTAIR REID PAMPHLET PRIZE

Named in memory of the renowned Galloway-born poet, translator and prose stylist.

PHOTOGRAPH OVERLEAF: COLIN TENNANT

WIGTOWN PRIZE WINNER 2021

Basil du Toit, *Mermaid Indoors*

The human had unsettled her – his breathing difficulties underwater, the puckering of his fingertips, stinging of his eyes, the raw fish diet that didn't agree with his stomach.

Now, she was sitting in his house, smelling like a shoreline that has been baked rancid in the low tide, the great flail of her tail-fin curled awkwardly backwards out of sight.

Her body spread the coldness of iceboxes or shipping containers; elements of salt and ammonia composed her presence, the rank mephitic odour of a dying fish.

Her gaze was fixed and ankylose, stiff cellulose, unblinking, bare, hardened by the eye-withering sharpness of ocean saltiness; blue scales speckled the carpet.

She spoke with the sadness of a sea animal which has laboriously learnt the one-sided language of men, incapable of addressing the alien, disfigured half of her.

She spoke of dualities – natural and supernatural, middle class and beatnik, two circulations (one where the blood ran cold) mingling fish and mammal.

She exclaimed her wonderment at soft warm towels, humidifiers and scented candles from John Lewis; but mostly she spoke of that world given up to satisfy

her keen, occasional taste for men – shoals of bonefish and barracuda, the perils of propellor injuries and dredge fishing, dark realms of maelstrom, wreck and kraken;

and she kept coming back to that bathroom of his, fragrant by rosemary and eucalyptus, with the curved slipper bath that was far too small to hold her.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Wigtown became Scotland's National Book Town in 1998, a destination for booklovers drawn to this beautiful area of south-west Scotland by its bookshops and award-winning autumn literary festival. To find out more, go to www.explorewigtown.com.

Wigtown Book Festival takes place from 23 September - 2 October 2022. www.wigtownbookfestival.com.



Delivered by
Wigtown Festival Company
11 North Main Street,
Wigtown
Dumfries & Galloway
DG8 9HN

Wigtown Festival Company is limited by guarantee with charitable status. Charity number SC037984.