

AESTHETICA CREATIVE WRITING

The 10th Aesthetica Creative Writing Award: Call for Entries

International Literary Prize Celebrating Outstanding Poetry and Short Fiction

The **Aesthetica Creative Writing Award 2016 is now open for entries**, presenting an opportunity for emerging and established writers and poets to showcase their work to new international audiences and further their involvement in the literary world.

Now in its 10th year, the award is an internationally renowned prize presented by *Aesthetica Magazine* and judged by literary experts, including Arifa Akbar, book reviewer for Monocle Radio and BBC Radio 5 Live and former Literary Editor at *The Independent*, and Poet Dr Oz Hardwick.

Aesthetica Creative Writing Award Prizes include:

- £500 each (Poetry Winner and Short Fiction Winner)
- Publication in the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual*
- Consultation with Redhammer Management (Short Fiction Winner)
- Full Membership to The Poetry Society (Poetry Winner)
- Selection of books courtesy of Bloodaxe and Vintage
- One year subscription to Granta

As well as selecting a winner from each category of Poetry and Short Fiction, the Award extends its impact and support for writers to a longlist of 58 further practitioners, whose selected pieces are included in the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual*.

Previous finalists have received further recognition and publication worldwide. As a result of being published in the Aesthetica Annual 2016, finalist Róna Judge McCormack is now represented by Jack Ramm of the Eve White Literary Agency and is working on a new novel.

The **two new prizes this year** are the consultation with Peter Cox from Redhammer Management (Short Fiction Winner) and Full Membership to The Poetry Society (Poetry Winner).

Peter Cox is managing director of the London-based literary agency Redhammer. As one of the most experienced agents in the business, he has brokered publishing, film and television deals for many acclaimed fiction and non-fiction authors, including worldwide bestselling novelist Michelle Paver, Linda McCartney, Senator Orrin Hatch, Martin Bell OBE, authors MG Harris, Mal Peet and editor of *The Sun* David Yelland. His movie deals include films with Sir Ridley Scott and many other producers.

The Poetry Society is the leading poetry organisation in the UK. For over a hundred years it has been a lively and passionate source of energy and ideas, whose work ranges from publishing *The Poetry Review* and hosting acclaimed national poetry competitions, to developing educational work and commissioning a packed calendar of performances and readings. Being a member of The Poetry Society means joining thousands of other people making a deeper connection with poetry and the poetry world.

Poetry entries can be up to 40 lines each; short fiction entries can be up to 2,000 words each. Works previously published elsewhere are accepted. **The closing date is 31 August 2016.** To enter visit: www.aestheticamagazine.com/cwa

The *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual 2016* is available at www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop

For more information, contact Alexandra Beresford, Marketing Coordinator alexandra@aestheticamagazine.com or phone 01904 629 137.

Notes to Editors:

1. The Aesthetica Creative Writing Award is open for entries until 31 August 2016: www.aestheticamagazine.com/cwa @AestheticaMag www.facebook.com/aestheticamagazine
2. The Award is an international literary prize showcasing talent from around the world and celebrating the work of both emerging and established writers
3. There are two winners: the Short Fiction Winner and the Poetry Winner, plus a further 58 longlisted writers.
4. Winners and Finalists are published in the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual*: www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop
5. Aesthetica Creative Writing Award Short Fiction Judge: Arifa Akbar.
Arifa Akbar is a journalist and literary critic. She reviews books for Monocle Radio and BBC Radio 5 Live. She is the former literary editor of *The Independent*, where she worked from 2001 until 2016, as a reporter and arts correspondent before joining the books desk in 2009. She has been a judge for the Orwell Prize (2013), the Fiction Uncovered Prize (2014), and the British Book Industry Awards (2016). Arifa has chaired author interviews at the London Literature Festival, English PEN, Asia House and the Bath Literature Festival, among others. Articles by Arifa include an interview with 2015 Man Booker winner Marlon James and Why Elena Ferrante should remain anonymous.
6. Aesthetica Creative Writing Award Poetry Judge: Dr Oz Hardwick.
Oz Hardwick is a York-based writer, photographer and musician, who has been published extensively worldwide, and has read everywhere from Chicago to Glastonbury. Valley Press published his fifth poetry collection, *The Ringmaster's Apprentice* in 2015. He has had work performed by classical musicians in UK concert halls, flamenco musicians in Italian villas, and artists in an Australian cinema. His collaborative chapbook with Amina Alyal, *Close as Second Skins*, was shortlisted in the Best Collaborative Work category of the 2015 Saboteur Awards, in which Oz was also shortlisted for Best Spoken Word Performer. He is Professor of English and Programme Leader for English and Writing at Leeds Trinity University.
7. The Aesthetica Creative Writing Award is also judged by a Reading Panel. This year the panel includes **Martine Pierquin**, Course Organiser in Creative Writing and Film, Media and Contemporary Cultures at the University of Edinburgh Short Courses, and **Liz Jones**, teaching Fellow at Aberystwyth University's Theatre, Film and Television Department.
8. Award partners include: Redhammer Management, The Poetry, Bloodaxe, Vintage and Granta. For more information, visit www.aestheticamagazine.com/creative-writing-award/about/#partners