

AESTHETICA CREATIVE WRITING

POETRY & SHORT FICTION WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2019



Image credit: Fazlulloh Shavit Musavi, *The Edge of Emotions*, 2018. Courtesy of the artist.

The winners of the renowned Aesthetica Creative Writing Award have been announced for 2019, celebrating excellence in contemporary writing.

The Aesthetica Creative Writing Award is a hotbed for new talent across Poetry and Short Fiction, now in its 14th year. Organised by the art and culture publication, *Aesthetica Magazine*, it presents both emerging and established writers with an opportunity to showcase new work and propel their careers through publication and talent development. Passionate about supporting creative voices, the Award welcomed thousands of entries from over 40 countries worldwide, with the Jury remarking on the outstanding selection of works presented in this year's competition.

The Poetry Award was presented to Audrey Molloy, for her entry *On Reaching 45 the Poet Realises She Is Only 23*. Based in Sydney, Australia, her work has been widely published most recently in *The Moth*, *The Irish Times* and *Mslexia*, and earlier this year she received the Hennessy Award for Emerging Poetry 2019.

Sean Gregory was announced as the winner of the Short Fiction Award for his entry *Louish & Benim*. Based in West Yorkshire, he is primarily a musician and award-winning theatre maker, having recently been the recipient of a Peggy Ramsay Bursary.

Both winners received £1,000 prize money, alongside further prizes from Creative Writing sponsors, which include consultations with literary agents **Redhammer Management**, Membership to **The Poetry Society**, subscriptions courtesy of **Granta**, and handpicked book selections from both **VINTAGE** and **Bloodaxe Books**.

Winners are published within the *Creative Writing Anthology*, an inspiring collection of narrative and poetic forms. The publication provides a platform for writing across a range of themes, topics and styles, offering meaningful perspectives on the world around us. It experiments with form and technique to express the complex emotions of desire, grief, conflict and resolution, as well as concepts of transformation, perception and change.

Featuring over 50 works, the Anthology also includes works from shortlisted writers; **Melissa Studdard**, whose writings have appears in *The Guardian* and *The New York Times*; recent winner of the Ruskin Prize and third in the National Poetry Competition **Mark Fiddes**; **Claire Potter** author of three poetry collections (*Swallow*, *In Front of a Comma*, *N'ombre*) and shortlisted writer for the Keats-Shelley Poetry Award 2017; poet and visual artist **Ella**

For Immediate Release

Frears whose work has been published in *Poetry London*, *LRB*, *The Moth* and has completed residencies for the National Trust and Tate Britain.

Aesthetica's *Creative Writing Anthology 2020* is available [here](#). Submissions for the 2020 Award are now open via www.aestheticamagazine.com/cwa

-ENDS-

Notes for Editors:

For **PRESS** information and images please contact:
Hannah Thomas, Marketing Coordinator
hannah@aestheticamagazine.com | (0044) (0)1904 629 137

- The Creative Writing Award is hosted by art and culture publication [Aesthetica Magazine](#). Published bi-monthly, Aesthetica has a readership of over 400,000 with national and international distribution. Across the brand, Aesthetica also produces a number of Awards focused on talent development including the [Aesthetica Art Prize](#) and the BAFTA-Recognised [Aesthetica Short Film Festival](#).
- Sponsors: [Vintage](#), [The Poetry Society](#), [Granta](#), [Redhammer Management](#), [Bloodaxe Books](#).
- View the full list of 2019's shortlisted writers [here](#).

VINTAGE GRANTA



THEPOETRYSOCIETY

BLOODAXE BOOKS