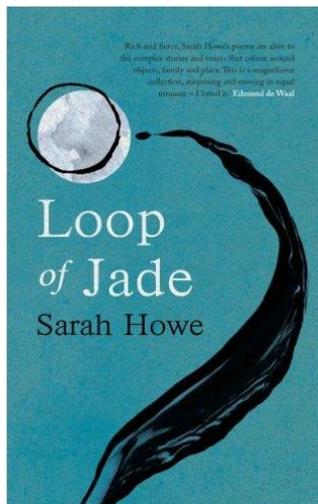




NEWS RELEASE – embargoed until 19:30 on Thursday 10 December, 2015

Poet Sarah Howe wins The Sunday Times / Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award 2015



Thursday 10 December, 2015: Sarah Howe, a 32-year-old British poet, has been awarded The Sunday Times / Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award for her first book of poems, *Loop of Jade* (Chatto & Windus), an enthralling personal exploration of her dual heritage.

Twenty-five years old this year, the newly relaunched award recognises the best literary work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry by a British or Irish writer of 35 and under. £5,000 is given to the winner, and £500 to each of the three runners-up. This year’s judges were The Sunday Times literary editor Andrew Holgate, The Sunday Times chief fiction reviewer Peter Kemp and author Sarah Waters, recipient of the award in 2000.

Howe was shortlisted for the Award alongside three other leading young writers, including: **Ben Fergusson** with his critically acclaimed historical fiction debut, *The Spring of Kasper Meier*; **Sunjeev Sahota** with his second novel, the Man Booker shortlisted *The Year of the Runaways*, a timely take on the British immigrant experience; and **Sara Taylor**’s Baileys-nominated collection of interlinked short stories, *The Shore*.

Born in Hong Kong in 1983 to an English father and Chinese mother, Howe moved to England as a child. With extraordinary range and power, *Loop of Jade* crosses the boundaries of time, race and language, reflecting on hybridity, intermarriage and love. Already shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize

and Forward Prize for Best First Collection, *Loop of Jade* introduces an unmistakable new voice in British Poetry.

Currently a Radcliffe Institute Fellow at Harvard University, Howe is the founding editor of [Prac Crit](#), an online journal of poetry and criticism, and, for National Poetry Day 2015, was given the unique honour of having her poem, *Relativity*, [recorded by Sir Stephen Hawking](#).

Announcing the winner at a special ceremony at The London Library, Andrew Holgate, award judge and literary editor at The Sunday Times, said:

“The judges were unanimous in their choice of the winner of The Sunday Times / Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award 2015. From the strongest of shortlists, they selected *Loop of Jade* by Sarah Howe as a work of astonishing originality, depth and scope. Her luminous poetry explores her dual heritage (her father is English and her mother Chinese) and different eras of Chinese culture, juxtaposing these with her own personal experiences. She is a writer always conscious of language; these are poems that are sensuous, subtle, and full of immediacy and resonance.”

Award judge, author and previous winner, Sarah Waters, said:

“The Sunday Times / Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award has been presented to a fantastic line-up of authors since it was first launched, and I still feel honoured and excited to have been one of its recipients. The boost it gave to my confidence, in the early stages of my career, was tremendous. Helping to judge the prize this year was a great honour, too. Peter, Andrew and I drew up a very strong shortlist from an impressive range of titles, and Sarah Howe, our winner, is a significant literary talent, a very special writer indeed.”

Since it began in 1991, the award has had a striking impact, boasting a stellar list of alumni that have gone on to become leading lights of contemporary literature. Previous winners include: **Ross Raisin**, *God's Own Country* (2009); **Adam Foulds**, *The Truth About These Strange Times* (2008); **Naomi Alderman**, *Disobedience* (2007), **Robert Macfarlane**, *Mountains of the Mind: a History of a Fascination* (2004); **William Fiennes**, *The Snow Geese* (2003); **Zadie Smith**, *White Teeth* (2001); **Sarah Waters**, *Affinity* (2000); **Paul Farley**, *The Boy from the Chemist is Here to See You* (1999); **Patrick French**, *Liberty or Death: India's Journey to Independence and Division* (1998); **Francis Spufford**, *I May Be Some Time: Ice and the English Imagination* (1997); **Katherine Pierpoint**, *Truffle Beds* (1996); **Andrew Cowan**, *Pig* (1995); **William Dalrymple**, *City of Djinn: A Year in Delhi* (1994); **Simon Armitage**, *Kid* (1993); **Caryl Phillips**, *Cambridge* (1992); and **Helen Simpson**, *Four Bare Legs in a Bed and Other Stories* (1991).

Keep up to date with the award and join the conversation, via:

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Notes to editors

Press enquiries: for further information, or to arrange interview with this year's shortlisted writers, judges or previous winners, please contact Fiona McMorrough or Christopher Bone at FMcM Associates on 02074 057 422 or on email at fionam@fmcm.co.uk / chrisb@fmcm.co.uk.

About The Sunday Times / Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award:

Twenty-five years old this year, the newly relaunched award recognises the best literary work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry by a British or Irish writer of 35 and under. £5,000 is given to the winner, and £500 to each of the three runners-up.

For the first time this year, Irish and self-published writers are eligible, with the judging panel comprised of The Sunday Times literary editor Andrew Holgate, The Sunday Times chief fiction reviewer Peter Kemp and author Sarah Waters, recipient of the award in 2000.

The award was suspended in 2008, but now, in generous partnership with Peters Fraser + Dunlop, the award has been revitalised, while building on this remarkable past, this year offering two significant and exciting innovations: extending its reach by including writers from Ireland and including self-published works as well as those from publishers – putting the prize in tune with the changing landscape of British publishing.

About Peters, Fraser + Dunlop:

Peters Fraser + Dunlop is one of the oldest and most established literary and talent agencies in London. We are proud to represent authors, journalists, broadcasters, speakers and estates with specialist expertise in the fields of literature, film, television and radio, public speaking, digital platforms and journalism. We offer our clients the best people to work with and the expertise to develop long-term value in their work across all media while protecting their rights in today's changing market. Our business is about creativity, enhancement, innovation and service.

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About The Society of Authors:

The Society of Authors (SoA) administers The Sunday Times / Peters, Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award. A professional organisation representing over 9,000 authors, The SoA was founded in 1884, it supports individual authors with services including contract vetting and acts as an advocate for the profession as a whole. The SoA also administers a wide range of prizes, as well as the Authors' Foundation, which is one of the very few bodies making grants to help with work in progress for established writers.

For further information, contact info@societyofauthors.org or see www.societyofauthors.org

The Sunday Times / Peters, Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year 2015 award ceremony was sponsored by...



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