

THE CHOLMONDELEY AWARDS

EMBARGOED UNTIL 20 JUNE 2017 8PM



The 2017 Cholmondeley Awards have been presented to five poets: **PHILIP GROSS**, **PAULA MEEHAN**, **CAROLINE BERGVALL**, **SASHA DUGDALE** and **JAMES SHEARD** for their body of work and for their contributions to poetry. Each receives £2,000.

The prizes were awarded by Ben Okri at the Society of Authors' Authors' Awards, held at the Army & Navy Club on 20 June.

The assessors this year were Paul Farley, Mimi Khalvati, Rod Mengham and Pascale Petit.

WINNERS



CAROLINE BERGVALL is a poet, artist and performer of French-Norwegian origins, and has been based in London since 1989. Her selections have appeared in anthologies in the UK and internationally and her works have been shown and presented at Tate Modern London, MOMA NY, Montevideo Festival Marseille and Serpentine Gallery London, among many others. She is currently affiliated with Medieval Studies, Kings College London and was a Writer-in-Residence at Whitechapel Gallery in 2014.

A pioneer, whose latest work, Drift, is spellbinding and experimental, taking language to strange limits, while engaging with one of the most pressing concerns of our time: migration.
Pascale Petit

SASHA DUGDALE is a poet, translator and editor. She has published three collections of poetry, the most recent of which is *Red House* (Carcanet, 2011). Dugdale translates poetry and plays from Russian and has worked with theatres across the UK and US on new productions of contemporary Russian plays. She is editor of *Modern Poetry in Translation* and co-editor of the international anthology *Centres of Cataclysm* (Bloodaxe, 2016).



Sasha's poetry is highly original, haunting, visionary even and ideally demonstrates how poetry in English can be heightened and emboldened by being inflected by other languages and cultures. Mimi Khalvati



PHILIP GROSS is a writer of poetry, YA fiction, opera libretti, radio short stories and plays. His poetry has won the T.S. Eliot Prize (2009), been shortlisted for the Whitbread-Prize (2001) and has received a PBS Recommendation (2011). Gross has collaborated with numerous artists, and his experience of words and silence in his Quaker beliefs are reflected in his work.

In exploring his fascination in language and wordlessness, he constantly delights us with his acute acts of seeing and his boundless verbal imagination. Mimi Khalvati

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PAULA MEEHAN has published seven collections of poetry as well as writing plays for both children and adults. Meehan has received the Butler Literary Award for Poetry, Marten Toonder Award, Dennis Devlin Award and the PPI Award for Radio Drama amongst others. She was elected to Aosdána, the Irish Academy for the Arts, in 1996. *Geomantic*, her latest collection of poems was published by Dedalus Press (2016).

Whatever her subject, whether it's a field, a street, or one of her characters, she manages to be utterly down-to-earth and yet incantatory. Pascale Petit



ABOUT THE AWARD

These awards for poets were founded by the late Dowager Marchioness of Cholmondeley in 1966 to recognise achievement, distinction and contribution to poetry.

Previous winners include: Seamus Heaney (1967), Basil Bunting (1982), Carol Ann Duffy (1992), Jackie Kay (2003), John Agard (2004) and Don Paterson (2012).

For more previous winners please see:

<http://www.societyofauthors.org/Prizes/Poetry/Cholmondeley/Past-winners>

For further information please contact Eleanor Jenyns and Samia Gundkalli on Prizes@societyofauthors.org / 020 7373 6642