

# THE SOMERSET MAUGHAM AWARDS 2017

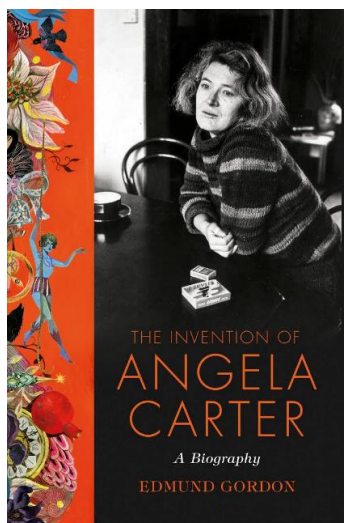
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The 2017 Somerset Maugham Awards were given to non-fiction, poetry and fiction writers **EDMUND GORDON**, **MELISSA LEE-HOUGHTON** and **MARTIN MCINNES**. Each writer receives £5,000. The prizes were presented by Ben Okri at the Society of Authors' Authors' Awards, held at the Army & Navy Club on 20 June.

The judges this year were Jen Campbell, Philip Hensher and Joanna Kavenna.

## WINNERS



### EDMUND GORDON for THE INVENTION OF ANGELA CARTER (Chatto & Windus)

Edmund Gordon has written for *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, *London Review of Books*, *Times Literary Supplement* and *The Sunday Times*, among other publications. In 2012 he received a Jerwood Award for non-fiction from the Royal Society of Literature. He lives in London and teaches literature and creative writing at King's College London. *The Invention of Angela Carter* is his first book.

*A philosophically brilliant, deeply moving and quite staggeringly perfect biography of Angela Carter.*

### MELISSA LEE-HOUGHTON for SUNSHINE (Penned in the Margins)

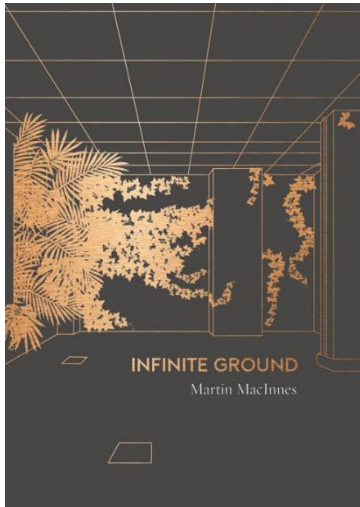
Melissa Lee-Houghton was born in Wythenshaw, Manchester in 1982. In 2014 Melissa was recognised as a Next Generation Poet: one of twenty poets whose work will define the poetry landscape over the next decade. In 2016 she was awarded a New Writing North Award for Fiction, and she has been shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem. *Sunshine* was shortlisted for the 2016 Costa Poetry Prize and the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry.

*Melissa's poetry runs across the page in waves; she grabs your hand and insists you look at this, no this, and what about this? Her work is necessary, thrilling, wild and passionate.*



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## MARTIN MACINNES for INFINITE GROUND (Atlantic Books)

Martin MacInnes was born in Inverness in 1983. He has an MA from the University of York and has read at international science and literature festivals. He is the winner of a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award and the 2014 Manchester Fiction Prize. He has also been chosen by *The Telegraph* as one of the 'Ten Scottish Writers to Watch'.

*MacInnes draws us into an eerie hallucinatory world in which the reader's expectations are thrillingly demolished, over and over. A wonderful new novelist.*

## ABOUT THE AWARD

W. Somerset Maugham set up a fund in 1947 to enable young writers to enrich their work through foreign travel. Awards are given for a published work of any genre (other than drama) by a writer under 35.

For previous winners please see

<http://www.societyofauthors.org/Prizes/Fiction/Somerset-Maugham/Past-winners>

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