BETTY TRASK SHORTLIST

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



QUARTET OF NOVELS IN RUNNING FOR £10,000 PRIZE

The Society of Authors is delighted to announce the shortlist for the 2016 Betty Trask Prize.

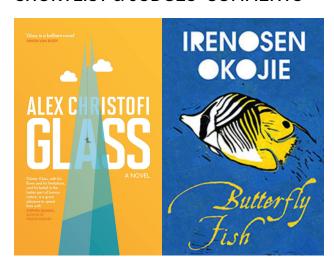
This year's shortlist is an impressive collection of first novels by writers under 35. Subjects and settings are excitingly diverse, ranging from a window-cleaner to a watchmaker, a rain-soaked valley to the ancient kingdom of Benin.

The Betty Trask Prize is given annually to a debut novel of literary merit by an author under the age of 35. The winner will receive £10,000 and will be announced at the **Authors' Awards** ceremony on 21 June. The three runners-up will each receive a Betty Trask Award worth £5,000.

The judges this year were, Simon Brett, Joanne Harris and Michèle Roberts.

The Prize and the Awards will be presented by John Agard.

SHORTLIST & JUDGES' COMMENTS



ALEX CHRISTOFI GLASS (Serpent's Tail)

A marvellously funny, original story, written with immense charm and humour

- Joanne Harris

IRENOSEN OKOJIE BUTTERFLY FISH (Jacaranda Books Art Music)

A bittersweet story uniting different traditions of narrative to create a whole new geography of the imagination

- Michèle Roberts

NATASHA PULLEY THE WATCHMAKER OF FILIGREE STREET (Bloomsbury Circus)

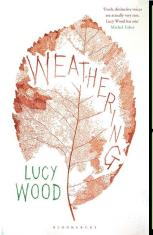
A fascinatingly imaginative and enchanting book set in a Victorian London that builds up a completely self-consistent world only slightly out of kilter with the real one

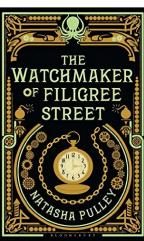
- Simon Brett

LUCY WOOD WEATHERING (Bloomsbury)

An emotionally mature consideration of generational love, loss and change

- Michèle Roberts





NOTES TO EDITORS

The Betty Trask Awards are given annually to the best first novelists under the age of 35. Betty Trask left a bequest to the Society of Authors in 1983 to celebrate young authors writing in a traditional or romantic style. This year a total of £25,000 in prize money will be distributed.

For further information please contact Paula Johnson on PJohnson@societyofauthors.org / 020 7373 6642. For previous winners please see www.societyofauthors.org/betty-trask-past-winners