

# 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](mailto:PJohnson@societyofauthors.org) / 020 7373 6642. For previous winners please see [www.societyofauthors.org/betty-trask-past-winners](http://www.societyofauthors.org/betty-trask-past-winners)