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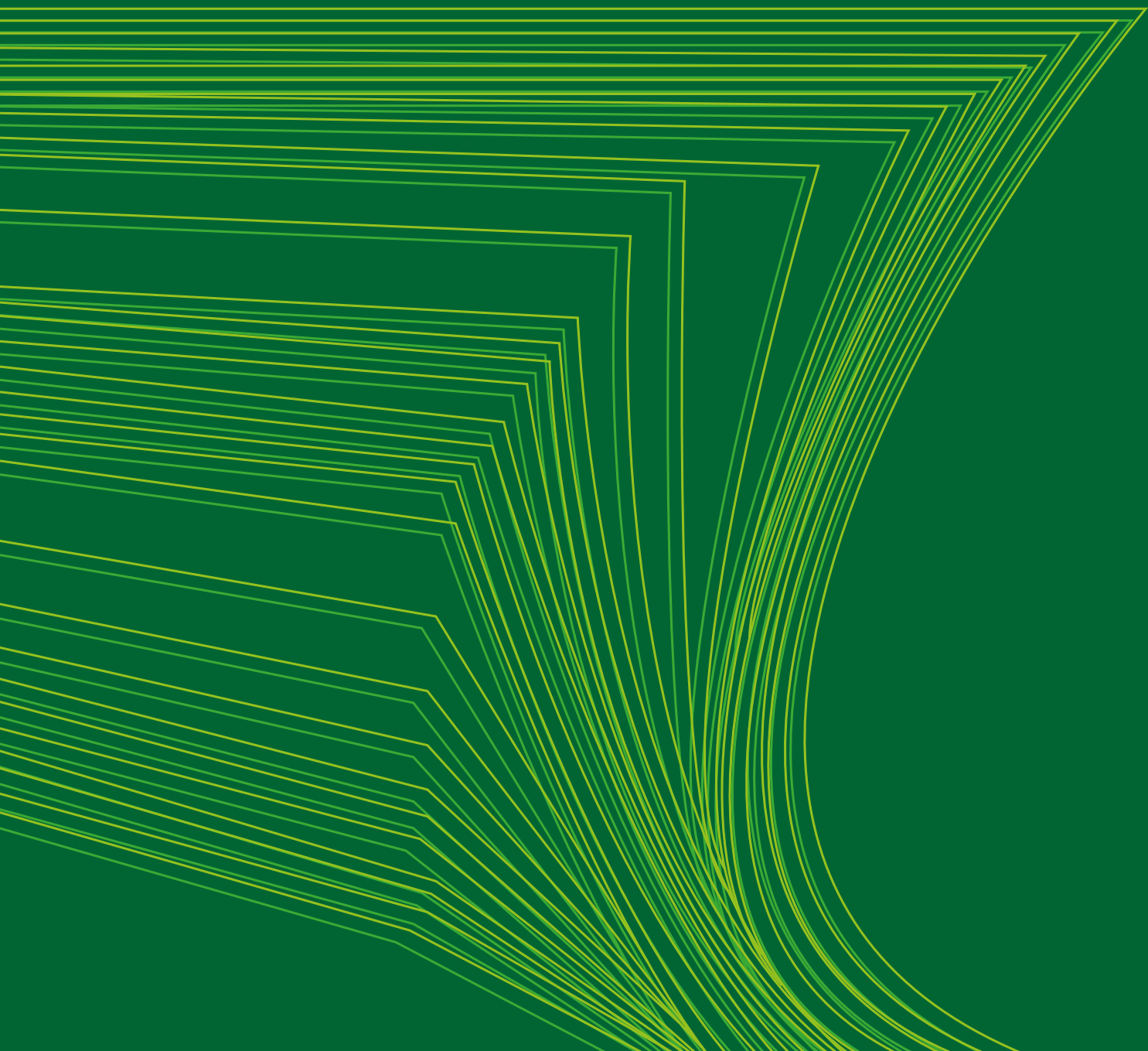
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# BREAKING GROUND IRELAND



# Breaking Ground Ireland

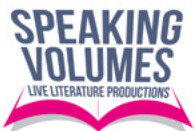
Welcome to *Breaking Ground Ireland*, the first publication of its kind highlighting writers and illustrators from ethnic minority backgrounds in Ireland, including those from Irish Traveller backgrounds. Based on *Breaking Ground*, an original concept and project by London-based organisation Speaking Volumes, this brochure is brought to you by NUI Galway and Cúirt International Festival of Literature, with mentorship from Speaking Volumes, support from the Irish Writers Centre and funding from the Irish Research Council.

In the tradition of Speaking Volumes’ *Breaking Ground* (2013 to the present day), which focused on British writers and illustrators of colour, *Breaking Ground Ireland* also celebrates the achievements and contributions of our many diverse artists who are expanding the Irish cultural landscape in new and exciting ways. As Irish-Nigerian British *Breaking Ground* author Gabriel Gbadamosi says: ‘Black and brown Irish voices are changing the music of what happens in Irish literature, and that’s a good thing, because now more Irish people can be heard.’

We look forward to hearing more and more of the multitude of stories coming out of the

island of Ireland today, many of which are created by the authors and illustrators in this publication.

*Breaking Ground Ireland* is part of a larger project entitled ‘(Re)reading, (Re)writing, and (Re)shaping “The Classics”: Past, Present, and Future’. This project has been generously funded by an Irish Research Council New Foundations grant awarded to Dr Lindsay Ann Reid of the School of English and Creative Arts at NUI Galway in collaboration with Cúirt International Festival of Literature. This project exemplifies ‘engaged research’, whereby academics and community partners work together to address societal challenges and effect positive social transformation.



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# Introduction: Starting a Conversation

In the past ten years, we've heard a chorus of voices from across the globe calling for greater inclusivity within the arts, including within the literature and publishing industries. From online activism like the US-based #weneeddiversebooks initiative to the emergence of discussion panels devoted to 'diversity in publishing', incremental change can be detected in a variety of contexts. In the adjacent realm of humanities education too, there are teachers at all levels who are intensifying their efforts to feature a wider range of texts and perspectives in the curriculum. While learned critiques of the literary canon are not new phenomena, the expansive international reach of recent activist movements reminds us that issues of representation are not simply theoretical matters to be debated internally by arts organisations or educational institutions confronting their own cultural roles and responsibilities.

Centuries of structural oppression take time and effort to unpack, and often this work leads to more questions than it initially

answers. There are questions on the table now for all of us to ponder. Whose voices are regularly heard in the public sphere, and whose are not? What might this tell us about social barriers and the legacies of colonisation? How does this impact the island of Ireland specifically – an island with an intensely complicated colonial past and a present in which we continue to reckon with racism and anti-Traveller sentiment? How might we, at a societal level, intentionally seek out a greater variety of authors and artists to publish, promote, read, teach and research? Could we better celebrate the range and depth of contemporary Irish

**There are questions on the table now for all of us to ponder. Whose voices are regularly heard in the public sphere, and whose are not?**

writing? And, finally, what roles can cultural institutions play in leading change? It is consideration of these questions that led to the creation of *Breaking Ground Ireland*.

We present *Breaking Ground Ireland* to you as a conversation piece. A continuation of the existing *Breaking Ground* series that Speaking Volumes pioneered in the UK, it highlights the wealth of literary and artistic talent working across the island of Ireland. When we first imagined creating this booklet, we set an ambitious target: we would seek to profile up to 80 Irish authors and illustrators from ethnic minority backgrounds. The response we received after circulating an open call for participants in January 2022 was overwhelming, however, and we found ourselves happily resetting our own goalposts. So we're delighted to include 90 individuals who are actively enriching Ireland's cultural landscape.

Ireland's literary culture has long been beloved and its significance recognised around the world. However, to ensure an





equally bright future, we must continue to innovate, challenge and redefine what Irish literature means today. Consider how Emma Dabiri's *What White People Can Do Next* (2021) and *Don't Touch My Hair* (2019) have proven that landmark writing on race can be produced from our shores, and that the intersection of Irishness and blackness creates a space for new conversations. Or how Anna Della Subin's *Accidental Gods* (2021) examines legacies of empire and patriarchy, the consequences of which we witness to this day. Or how Melatu Uche Okorie's *This Hostel Life* (2018) uses the deplorable backdrop of Ireland's Direct Provision system to create new stories. Or how the innovative fiction that Yan Ge has written since living in Mayo unexpectedly weaves together the histories of contemporary Ireland and ancient China.

This project sits within a wider context of recent initiatives designed to support, promote and develop artists from all backgrounds. In 2019, the Irish Arts Council laid important foundations for fostering greater diversity in the creative industries via their Equality, Human Rights and Diversity Policy and Strategy. Arts Council-funded initiatives that seek to address these aims include Dr

**For every artist featured in *Breaking Ground Ireland*, there are more taking their first tentative steps towards shaping our island's literary future.**

Emma Penney, Sophie Meehan and Áine O'Hara's recent creation of The Working-Class Writing Archive, a website and online collection featuring work by Dublin's working-class writers, as well as Skein Press and *The Stinging Fly's* 2021 Play It Forward Fellowships Programme, designed by Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe to nurture authors from backgrounds traditionally underrepresented in literature and publishing. Other recent projects focused on increasing inclusivity in the Irish literary sphere include Diversifying Irish Poetry: Poetry Critics of Colour in Ireland, a mentorship programme for critics from minority ethnic groups that was launched in 2021 by Dr Catherine Gander of Maynooth University in partnership with Poetry Ireland and funded by the Irish Research Council.

In what follows, you'll discover illustrators and writers working in every conceivable genre, from poetry to literary fiction, from children's literature to memoir, from comics to fantasy, horror and more. Some of these individuals are at the very beginning of their careers, while others are already winning awards and making bestseller lists. For every artist featured in *Breaking Ground Ireland*, there are more taking their first tentative steps towards shaping our island's literary future. This booklet is not meant as an exhaustive catalogue, and we know that the list of those who might be featured in a work of this nature will only continue to grow exponentially in the coming years. For those whose profiles appear within the following pages, we hope that *Breaking Ground Ireland* will provide an opportunity for you to connect with new audiences. For those of us who will benefit from this booklet's existence – publishers, editors, educators, librarians, researchers, leaders of arts organisations and book lovers – we invite you to delve in and become part of the conversation.

**Sasha de Buyl and Lindsay Ann Reid**  
*Cúirt International Festival of Literature and NUI Galway, 2022*



**W**hen you want to contribute to the fight for racial equality and social justice, but there's just a few of you and the world's so large, what can you do?

This is the question that Speaking Volumes, an independent UK arts organisation with no regular funding, constantly has in mind. We – Sharmilla Beezmohun, Sarah Sanders and Nick Chapman – are all part-time. We don't even have an office. In other words, we're always working in a precarious environment. Not easy to make a difference on this basis.

And yet. There are ways we've been able to build solidarities, communities and networks – and each small step makes a difference.

\*

It's 2013. The AfroEurope@s London conference has just finished. Sharmilla, who's part of this international academic and cultural network, is having lunch with two other women from the group, talking about her dream to tour Black British writers in the USA. The response from American academics Maggi Morehouse and Elisa Joy

White? 'Go for it!'

That faith, reinforced by Arts Council England funding, gave us the impetus to develop *Breaking Ground*, our multi-faceted project to showcase writers of colour. Two years after Sharmilla's conversation, we were in the USA. Maggi and Elisa's moral and financial support enabled us to take ten Black British writers to universities, bookshops, theatres and conferences across the east and west coasts. And we'd distributed all 1,000 copies of our first



*Breaking Ground* brochure – featuring 50 Black British authors and designed by brilliant graphic artist Jon Daniel – far and wide across the North American continent.

In our second *Breaking Ground* booklet in 2017, we highlighted 200 British black, Asian and minority ethnic writers, from the just starting out to the established, from literary to fantasy fiction novelists, from spoken word performers to non-fiction writers. This time, we sent the 5,000 copies to every UK literature festival and to British Council offices around the world – so that everyone would know the depth and breadth of talent of our diverse communities. We also took them to Belgium, Finland, Germany, Portugal and Spain where, alongside our author events, we programmed networking sessions with translators, publishers and festival organisers, to get people talking to each other.

A year later, we chose to feature 100+ British writers and artists of colour for children and young adults in our *Breaking New Ground* publication, now designed by the late Jon Daniels' equally talented wife Jane. Our partner BookTrust delivered 25,000 copies to every school in the country, and has been subsidising school visits by diverse authors.

\*



Being approached by Sasha de Buyl at the Cúirt International Festival of Literature and Lindsay Reid at the National University of Ireland at Galway to help create *Breaking Ground Ireland* is an exciting new chapter for Speaking Volumes. The partnership extends our own knowledge, as we learn about the dynamic and increasingly diverse Irish literature scene which is changing the cultural landscape. It also reinforces the connections we already have to Ireland through our own projects; we've worked with numerous writers based here in the UK who have Irish roots – including acclaimed poet and playwright Gabriel Gbadamosi, up-and-coming writer Fergal Harte, children's author



and illustrator Yasmeen Ismail, children's writer Emma Shevah and Manchester-based poet John Siddique, among others. And who would have guessed that one of those scholars who'd encouraged us to start *Breaking Ground* at the very beginning, African American professor Elisa Joy White, would have her own historical family connections to Ireland? We've come full circle in so many ways, as we take this inspiring step now.

Not just full circle, though, but an ever-expanding circle of inclusivity as more and more knowledge is shared. In just five years, every iteration of *Breaking Ground* has caused a wave, contributing to changes small

and large, crossing generations and borders. These stylish, square booklets, and the events they engender, show how small groups can come together to fight effectively for racial equality and social justice. Come on, join us, let's continue breaking ground.

**Sharmilla Beezmohun, Sarah Sanders and Nick Chapman**

*Speaking Volumes Live Literature Productions, London, UK*

[www.speaking-volumes.org.uk](http://www.speaking-volumes.org.uk)

Twitter: @speak\_volumes

Facebook: /

SpeakingVolumesLiveLiteratureProductions

Instagram: @speaking.volumes



# Two Grandmothers

**M**y grandmother, Margaret Doyle, was a storyteller, like many women are, spinning a tale for her children at bedtime, a joke for

the lodgers, making a nugget of gossip into fifteen minutes of pure tension over a cup of tea with my mother. I used to listen, not so much to the story itself, but to the spaces between the sentences, how long they were, how well placed, how she would take a sip of tea at the cruellest moment and dab her lips with her apron. Because she was from Wexford, most of her stories were about her Irish neighbours and people at the church. There were words in her tongue that I couldn't understand and a music to her speech that I still associate with the best stories and best storytellers, as comforting as a lullaby.

My father's mother, Chrissie, would often speak to my father about back home in the Caribbean. Her stories were brief and often melancholy, none of the waspish humour of Margaret, but they were stories nonetheless; what was missed, who loved whom, what happened when she was young. They were not friends, these two grandmothers of mine, and yet they were so alike, marooned in a foreign country with grandchildren they barely recognised and never expected, both yearning for a past life, one they hoped to get

back to when they were old enough to die.

I learned early on how to switch between these two cultures, which word to use for cold or hot, good or bad, when the music of my speech went high or low at the end and how to construct the sentences themselves to be best understood, depending on which grandmother I was speaking to. We were not a family of handwritten letters and invitations,

**I learned early on how to switch between these two cultures, which word to use for cold or hot, good or bad**

but lived by word of mouth; this funeral and that wedding and that event and this occasion. We knew where and when to turn up – or not. Although I was good at English at school, it never occurred to me to write at home, to read at home to study or go to university. That was for the people who belonged in England, born and bred, people of another class and

colour. It took me until I was 51 to decide to go to university, before I had any notion that it could be for me.

Since publishing my first novel six years ago, I've tried to encourage other writers like me, black writers, older writers, Irish writers, disadvantaged writers, writers on the margins, to value their stories and the place they come from, to write it all down in the languages they speak with the words from their streets and the phrases their grandmothers used – both of them, all of them. Without stories from the 'other', we get a skewed idea of what reading is, of what literature is and, since books represent the world and other worlds, we get a skewed idea about life itself. It's unbalanced.

When we see ourselves represented on the page or represented in literary spaces, at festivals and readings, it gives us permission to join in and allows us to say, 'This is for me.' Many of the newcomers to Ireland – the new Irish, black and white – have had to learn this new music, have heard the lift at the end and might have learned the sentence structure that is like no other; a new vocabulary, a wry humour that can turn a no to a yes, from good to bad just by the tone and inflexion. But what might be added to the language from them, from us? What else might we bring?

**When we see ourselves represented on the page or represented in literary spaces, at festivals and readings, it gives us permission to join in and allows us to say, 'This is for me.'**

My grandmothers showed me how to tell stories and spin a yarn, they taught me the value of silence and how, in the space of a few minutes, we can experience the highs and lows and comedy of life. They added to my life's understanding and my concept of story.

Neither the people of the Caribbean nor the people of Ireland speak English out of choice, having been enslaved or colonised or overrun or dominated by an oppressor, their natural language forbidden. But all of us, through our stories and our contributions to literature, can bring our whole selves and our experiences, enriching and enlivening with our spirit and our history.

**Kit de Waal**



Kit de Waal was born in Birmingham to an Irish mother, who was a childminder and foster carer, and a Caribbean father. She worked for fifteen years in criminal and family law, was a magistrate for several years and sits on adoption panels. She has advised social services on the care of foster children, and has written training manuals on adoption and foster care and for members of the judiciary. Her numerous writing awards include the 2014 and 2015 Bridport Flash Fiction Prize and the 2014 SI Leeds Literary Readers' Choice Prize. Her first novel, *My Name is Leon* (2016), was shortlisted for the Costa Book Award and won the 2017 Irish Novel of the Year Award. Her 2019 novel *The Trick to Time* was described as 'devastatingly emotional. De Waal's storytelling gives us the poetry and sorrow of life itself' by the *Financial Times*. In March 2020 with Molly Flatt, Kit co-founded the three-day virtual book festival The Big Book Weekend, for BBC Art's 'Culture in Quarantine' programming. The first two festivals have garnered audiences of 147,000+. Kit has two children and lives in the West Midlands. Her memoir, *Without Warning and Only Sometimes*, is out in August 2022.

# Why *Breaking Ground Ireland* Matters



## Sebastian Barry

**Laureate for Irish Fiction  
2019-2021**

What a joy, an inspiration and a revelation it has been to read and experience in recent years the revolutionary work of Oein deBhairduin, Rosaleen McDonagh, Yan Ge, Melatu Uche Okorie, among others. These might once have been designated ‘marginal’ voices. Now they are central, restoring the ground of Irish literature, erecting graceful, healing, urgent structures of words. Any expansion in this area will be only a boon and a wondrous harvest for Irish literature.

## Adiba Jaigirdar

**Bestselling author of  
*The Henna Wars***

Despite Ireland’s amazing contributions to literature, there has always been a lack of ethnic minority voices from Ireland. It’s especially been noticeable now with globalisation and Ireland’s growing multicultural identity. It’s really amazing to see a project like *Breaking Ground Ireland* coming to the fore, and shining a light on those voices that have been left out of the narrative for a long time. I hope that this will give many more opportunities to ethnic minority authors in Ireland, and help budding new writers feel like they have a space here.



## Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe

**Poetry Editor at Skein Press**

*Breaking Ground Ireland* is a welcome and promising initiative to spotlight literary talent, foster creative community, and celebrate the rich plurivocity of stories that enliven contemporary Ireland.



## Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan

**Writer, performer and cultural consultant**

I am so excited to see the writing that will come out of the *Breaking Ground Ireland* initiative, spearheaded by Cúirt and run in collaboration with Speaking Volumes. In an environment where diversity can often be a box-ticking exercise, it’s great to see a major Irish festival working with another organisation that specialises in getting underrepresented voices heard, to create paid opportunities for writers from ethnic minority backgrounds. Committing to supporting 80+ artists through this initiative will make a real impact on the Irish literary landscape, enabling the sector and its audiences to read writers that are creating brilliant new work in this country. I can’t wait to see the publication produced from this initiative, to read wonderful new writing, but also to use it as a resource to expand my network of brilliant writers!

## Lisa McInerney

**2016 winner of the Women’s Prize for Fiction**

*Breaking Ground Ireland* is such an exciting initiative. It’s essential that writers feel like their perspectives and stories matter, and this is a practical, positive and dynamic way of supporting writers from underrepresented backgrounds, who don’t always enjoy access to traditional publishing platforms. I’m so looking forward to what comes from it, and the fuller, more inclusive vision of Ireland we’ll all be able to take inspiration from.





# Full List of Authors and Illustrators in *Breaking Ground Ireland*

Pragya Agarwal  
Meriem Ahmed  
Suad Al Darra  
Ammar Al-najjar

Diana Bamimeke  
Amy A. Barry  
Annie Brown

Hanahazukashi Cepeda  
Ashwin Chacko  
Nora Corcoran

Blessing Dada  
Oein DeBhairduin  
Khanyo Dlamini

Grace Enemaku  
Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi  
Kate Escolin

Mostafa Darwish Mohamed  
Fawaz  
Lorde Fuhl  
Gabrielle Fullam

Neo Florence Gilson  
Alexandra Gogan  
Lind Grant-Oyeye  
Priyangee Guha

Dagogo Hart  
Mahito Indi Henderson

Adiba Jaigirdar  
Nandi Jola  
Jade Jordan

Filomena Kaguako  
Christie Kandiwa  
Shubhangi Karmakar  
Nithy Kasa  
Nyaradzo Masunda  
Katsamudanga  
Úna-Minh Kavanagh  
Emily Anna King  
Charlot Kristensen  
Clara Kumagai

Simon Lewis  
Sarah Little

Maryam Madani  
Cauvery Madhavan  
Wuraola (Ola) Majekodunmi  
Khanysile Mbukwane  
Rosaleen McDonagh  
Raquel McKee  
Rafael Mendes  
Nita Mishra  
Anesu Khanya Mtowa  
Majed Mujed  
Philomena Mullen  
Owodunni Oli Mustapha  
Eppnoggia Mutetwa

Tapasya Narang  
Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan  
Sandrine Ndahiro

Kebeh Ofem  
Amélie (Amz) O'Kelly  
Abby Oliveira  
Hussein Ahmed Hussein Omar  
Emer O'Neill

Annie Yellowe Palma  
Shubhangi Pandey  
Saakshi Patel  
Tanuja Patil  
Marguerite Penrose  
Yovanka Paquete Perdigão  
Holly Pereira

Rachel Ramirez  
Aashima Rana  
Charlotte Rea-Patel  
Kimberly Reyes  
Tanvi Emma Roberts

Fadilah Salawu  
Sree Sen  
ShivaRJoyce  
Kemi George Simpson  
Pallavi Singh  
Nomasiza Rejoice Siziba

Tari Takavarasha  
Sasha Terfous

Nqobizitha Vella

Mary Watson  
Landa wo  
Sylvia Wohlfarth

Samuel Yakura  
Iva Yates  
Shannon Yee

Safa Zaiani  
Siraj Zaidi  
Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe

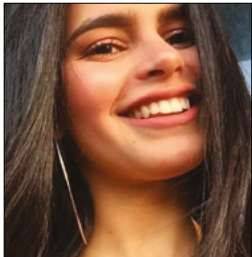


Pragya  
Agarwal

Dr Pragya Agarwal the author of three critically acclaimed non-fiction books on unconscious bias, anti-racism and intersectional motherhood. She is also a behavioural and data scientist, a visiting professor of social inequities and injustice at Loughborough University and founder of a research think-tank, The 50 Percent Project. She is a global inclusivity consultant, a two-time TEDx speaker and has hosted a podcast called *Outside the Boxes*. Praga's writing has appeared in the *Guardian*, *The Independent*, *Scientific American*, *New Scientist*, *Literary Hub* and *AEON* amongst others. Her next book, *Hysterical*, is out with Canongate in September 2022.

**Genre/Form**  
Non-Fiction, Journalism, Reviewing, Literary or Cultural Criticism, Biography and Life Writing, Popular Science Writing

**Contact**  
[Website: drpragyaagarwal.com](http://drpragyaagarwal.com)



Meriem  
Ahmed

Meriem Ahmed is an Irish–Egyptian author who has been writing since she was a teen. Her main genre is poetry, but she also pens personal articles and opinion pieces for her Wordpress blog, which she started when she was seventeen and was the first place her writing appeared; it's also a safe place for others to share their work, through feature posts. Meriem feels that the vulnerability in her words is the most crucial aspect of her work. She wants readers to remember that they are never alone in the world and hopes that her authentic storytelling reaches them. *Truth Be Told*, her first, self-published poetry collection, is available worldwide on Amazon. Meriem has her own website, a writing account on Instagram and has been published in several poetry publications. She was selected as a Young Delegate for Cúirt International Festival of Literature and had been featured in the online *Journal.ie*.

**Genre/Form**  
Poetry

**Contact**  
[Instagram: @allthingsmer](https://www.instagram.com/allthingsmer)



Suad Aldarra

Born in Riyadh, Suad Aldarra is a Syrian–Irish writer and data scientist who has been based in Dublin since 2014. She started her writing career in 2020, when she was longlisted by Penguin Random House's Write Now programme which supports underrepresented writers in the UK and Ireland. In 2021, she was chosen to be the Common Currency Writer in Residence at the Cúirt International Festival of Literature (in partnership with English PEN and Irish PEN/ PEN na hÉireann). She has received a John Hewitt Society Bursary and was awarded the Arts Council of Ireland's English Literature bursary. *I Don't Want to Talk About Home* is her debut memoir, to be published in July 2022 by Penguin Random House.

**Genre/Form**  
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography and Life Writing

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[Twitter: @suadarra](https://twitter.com/suadarra)



**Ammar  
Al-najjar**

Born in 1978, Ammar Al-najjar is a poet and writer from Yemen residing in Belfast. Since 2002 he has published five poetry books, including *Man and the Butterfly* (2005), which has been fully translated into English, *Dancing with the Old Man* (2012) and *The whole* (2019). He has participated in several literary festivals in Yemen, Egypt, Iraq, Colombia and elsewhere, and has been involved in writing and producing a number of short fiction films. Whilst living in Ecuador, he produced several visual poems there. Ammar is also active in the field of cultural policies in Yemen and the Arab world. He is Founder and President of the Orient Cultural Foundation and a member of the Arab Group for Cultural Policies.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry

**Contact**

**Via Cúirt International Festival of Literature**  
**at: [info@cúirt.ie](mailto:info@cúirt.ie)**



**Diana  
Bamimeke**

Diana Bamimeke is a writer and early-career independent curator from Blanchardstown, Dublin. Diana has been writing for well over fifteen years. They are interested in how the radical, exploratory potential of art writing can intersect with fiction and memoir, and are most at home creating experimental fiction, memoir and essays. Their work has featured in publications by: Black Queer organisation Origins Eile; the *Visual Artists Ireland News Sheet*; the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin; Temple Bar Gallery + Studios; and Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin).

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Literary or Cultural Criticism, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Instagram: [@dianazepam](https://www.instagram.com/dianazepam)**



**Amy A. Barry**

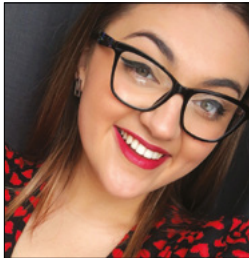
Originally from Penang, Malaysia, Amy Abdullah Barry has been living in Athlone since 2003. She started writing poetry about ten years ago and also writes short stories. She is published globally including in *Southword*, *The Blue Nib*, *The Sunday Tribune*, *Paris Lit Up* and *The Poets' Republic*. Her poems have been translated into many languages including Italian, Turkish, Spanish, Azerbaijani and Persian. Amy's poems have been shortlisted, longlisted and highly commended, as well as winning local and international awards. She was nominated for the 2021 Pushcart Poetry Prize and is an honorary member of the Neruda Association in Italy. A Founder of Global Writers, Amy has performed her work in Ireland and internationally, including in Australia, Canada and Italy. Her love of travel and various trips she has made infuse her work. At home in Athlone, she is a Member of Poetry in the Park and regularly organises poetry events. Some of her poems have appeared on *I am not a silent poet*, an online magazine for poetry and artwork protesting against abuse in any of its forms.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Twitter: [@AmyBarry12](https://twitter.com/AmyBarry12)**



**Annie Brown**

Annie Brown was raised in Tullamore, County Offaly, and has been based in Limerick City since 2017. She graduated in 2021 with a BA in contemporary and applied Theatre Studies. An emerging playwright, Annie is a PhD researcher focusing on the representation of women as witches in Irish drama. She published short stories in 2013 and 2014 with *The Irish Times* and O'Brien Press. However, her writing has since fused with her theatre practice and she completed her first play script in 2020. Annie's research informs her playwriting as she strives to explore of the 'unseen' facets of the women of Irish mythology.

**Genre/Form**

Playwriting

**Contact**

**Twitter: [@AnnieElizaBrown](https://twitter.com/AnnieElizaBrown)**



**Hanahazukashi  
Cepeda**

Hanahazukashi Cepeda was born in Mexico and has lived in Texas, Milwaukee and Japan. She has lived in Ireland since 2011. Although she began writing at a young age, Hanahazukashi only became serious about it when she joined Galway Writers Group in 2016. She began to read at community wellness events and open mic nights with Over the Edge, winning second place during a Culture Night open mic. Hanahazukashi writes creative non-fiction about faith, social constructionism, self-harm and philosophy, and has been published online and in *Crannóg*. In 2020 she was chosen for the National Mentoring Programme, with mentor Sara Baume helping her to refine her first novel. Hanahazukashi acts and directs with Theatre Room and is a founding member of Cosáin Community Wellness. Her music was featured in Jamie Chi's *Justice for Maya*, shown at the British Museum and in Spain, France and Hong Kong.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Short Stories, Playwriting, Travel Writing, Memoir

**Contact**

**Website: [hanahazukashi.com](http://hanahazukashi.com)**



**Ashwin  
Chacko**

Ashwin Chacko is an Indian author, illustrator and motivational speaker based in Dublin, specialising in positive visual storytelling. His mission is to champion creativity – through talks, books, videos and workshops – in order to shape culture. He describes his work as positively playful. Over the last few years, he has moved into the children's book industry as an author/illustrator, self-publishing some of his writing as well as working with traditional publishers. His books include *Keep At It*, *Little Optimist*, *What Wondrous Shapes We Are* and *A Little Book About Justice*. His latest children's book, *Everybody Feels Fear* (Dorling Kindersley), is due out in September 2022.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Spoken Word, Children's Literature, Illustration, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Website: [www.whackochacko.com](http://www.whackochacko.com)**





**Nora Corcoran**

Nora Corcoran is an aspiring children's fiction author. Her books are based on the Irish Traveller community's culture and traditions as seen through the eyes of a very young boy, Tadgh, and his grandmother. They draw on Nora and her late mother's childhoods, and tell unique tales of nomadism, tents, barrel-top wagons and a horse called Topsy. Nora also writes prose and poetry based on the Irish Traveller culture and traditions.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Children's Literature

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @corcoran10\_nora



**Blessing Dada**

Blessing Dada, from Dublin, is a two-time award-winning Black-Irish mental health advocate who's passionate about social justice, especially issues around mental health awareness and intersectionality. She raises awareness through her lived experiences of struggling with mental health in Ireland. Blessing started out writing in her diary from a very young age as she struggled with situational mutism. She has been writing publicly online for a few years now, sharing her work in a Facebook writers' group and on her Instagram account, as well as with Irish organisations working around mental health and disabilities. Recently, Blessing was named as one of '22 Activists to Watch in 2022' in the *Sunday Independent's Life* magazine. Being involved with numerous organisations, she can be found participating in various projects and writing.

**Genre/Form**

Non-Fiction, Journalism, Biography and Life Writing, Activism

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @blezzingdada



**Oein DeBhairduin**

Oein DeBhairduin, author of *Why the moon travels* (Skein Press, 2020), is a creative soul with a passion for poetry and preserving the literature of the Travelling Community. He is a board member of several Mincéirí community groups, including the Irish Traveller Movement and Mincéir Whidden. By pairing activism with cultural celebration, he recalls old tales with modern connections.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Nature Writing, Storytelling

**Contact**

**Via his publisher at:** [info@skeinpress.com](mailto:info@skeinpress.com)



**Khanyo Dlamini**

Nokukhanya Francisca Dlamini, known as Khanyo, is originally from South Africa and has lived in Ireland since 2009. A poet since she was young, her poetry is inspired by her life experiences and the people around her. Khanyo has performed at many literary events, including open mics at De Barras Clonakilty and Fiction at the Friary in Cork City. Her work was published in *Correspondences*, an anthology edited by Stephen Rea and Jessica Traynor. She has contributed to podcasts, documentaries and newspaper articles, and has also worked with artist William Bock in a collaborative project called *Land Walks Land Talks Land Marks* funded by The Irish Arts Council and CREATE. Khanyo is committed to human rights and advocacy, and has been involved with Cork City of Sanctuary project since its inception. She is passionate about being a voice for the voiceless.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word

**Contact**

**Facebook:** [Khanyo Francisca Dlamini](#)

**Instagram:** [@KhanyoFrancisca](#)



**Grace Enemaku**

Grace Enemaku is an award-winning Nigerian-Irish multidisciplinary designer and illustrator from Dublin. Her work is filled with colour and playful shapes, featuring a diverse array of characters. She recently co-founded DesignOpp, an International Development Ireland initiative to champion diversity and people of colour in the Irish design and creative industries. Grace won a 100Archive Award in 2020 for her Dublin Vinyl record packaging and has exhibited with Hen's Teeth, Where are the Black Designers?, and Music, Memory and the Night. Clients include Arnotts, Facebook, AIB, The Science Gallery and Gill Books.

**Genre/Form**

Children's Literature, Illustration

**Contact**

**Website:** [enemaku.com](http://enemaku.com)

**Twitter:** [@GraceEnemaku](#)

**Instagram:** [@enemaku](#)



**Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi**

Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi is an Igbo-Irish writer, editor, educator and arts facilitator. In 2019 she was awarded the Access Cúirt bursary by Poetry Ireland and Cúirt International Festival of Literature. She has created work for, among others: the Contemporary Irish Arts Center Los Angeles' Micro-Moments, a short series of creative activations by artists living across Ireland and the USA; The National Concert Hall's *Notes From A Quiet Land: Edition II; Winter Papers*, Ireland's annual arts anthology; *Architecture Ireland* journal; *Irish University Review; Poetry Ireland Review*, and *The MASI Journal*. With Pat Boran, Chiamaka is co-editor of *Writing Home: The 'New Irish' Poets* (Dedalus Press, 2019). She has contributed to: *The Art of the Glimpse: 100 Irish Short Stories* (Apollo, 2020), selected by Sinéad Gleeson; *I am a man of peace: Writings inspired by the Maynooth University Ken Saro-Wiwa Collection* (Daraja, 2020), edited by Helen Fallon; and *Empty House: Poetry and Prose on the Climate Crisis* (Doire Press, 2021), edited by Alice Kinsella and Nessa O'Mahony.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Children's Literature, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@AmadiEnyi](#)



**Kate Escolin**

Kate Escolin, also known as tinygreens, is a Kildare-based freelance illustrator and comic artist born in the Philippines. She started sharing her work online in 2018 through Instagram and Twitter. She creates digital illustrations using soft colour palettes paired with bold line art, and enjoys cute and fun design. Her work consists of illustrations and comics inspired by real-life experiences and conversations, with an emphasis on showing emotional honesty. She has always included words alongside her illustrations, but started to explore creating mini-comics in 2020 at the beginning of the pandemic. This work resonated with many people on Instagram. Now, Kate would say that she is most known for these mini-comics.

**Genre/Form**

Non-Fiction, Illustration, Comics/Graphic Novels

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @tinygreensart

**Instagram:** @tinygreens



**Mostafa Darwish Mohamed Fawaz**

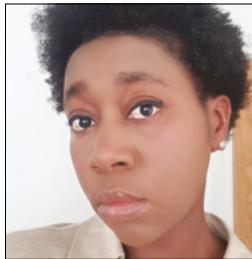
Mostafa Darwish is an award-winning storyteller who has told stories in and about Egypt, Turkey, Sweden, Latvia, Sudan, Georgia, Malaysia and Ireland. He started his career in journalism in 2011, photographing the Arab Spring. Since then, he's developed his skills, telling stories through a mixture of text and visuals. Mostafa moved to Ireland in 2019 and completed a Masters in journalism at the University of Limerick, winning Ireland's Student Journalist of the Year two years in a row, in 2020 and 2021. Additionally, he has won NewsBrands Ireland Investigative Journalism Award.

**Genre/Form**

Journalism, Screenwriting, Visual storytelling, photography

**Contact**

**Via Cúirt International Festival of Literature at:** [info@cuiirt.ie](mailto:info@cuiirt.ie)



**Lorde Fuhl**

Lorde Fuhl is a Dublin-based artist who writes stories, songs and poems. Her writing style is commercial, reflecting the type of entertainment that she likes. She posts scenario poems on Instagram and on her blog, where readers can also find her monthly bite-sized, dystopian stories. She has performed poems at spoken word events around Dublin, some of which were organised by the Fried Plantain Collective. In 2019, she was one of the featured poets at the Beyond Representation event at the International Literature Festival Dublin. Lorde Fuhl has written for *Rogue*, an online publication created by an independent community of female writers that is 'provocative, stirring, insightful'.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Spoken Word, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Short Stories, Romance

**Contact**

**Blog:** [www.nerosaintpresents.wordpress.com](http://www.nerosaintpresents.wordpress.com)

**com**

**Instagram:** @Lorde Fuhl: Concept



**Gabrielle Fullam**

Gabrielle Fullam is an Irish–Punjabi writer and theatre-maker from Lucan. She is a youth educator, student and an undergraduate researcher who writes poetry, plays, short stories and creative non-fiction. Her artistic practice and politics provide her with so much of the same anger and energy that they are almost indistinguishable from each other. Gabrielle writes for the Gal Pal Collective ([www.thegalpalcollective.com](http://www.thegalpalcollective.com)) and for a bi-weekly newsletter called *Hands and Knees*, mainly featuring non-fiction work. She has featured in publications such as *The RTÉ Guide* and *Icarus* magazine, and contributed to *The Liminal: Notes on Life, Race and Direct Provision in Ireland*, edited by Leefary and Fiadh Melina (Tallav Media, 2021). Her plays have been performed at Edinburgh Fringe Festival and at the Irish Student Drama Awards. Gabrielle is the current editor of *Icarus* magazine, Ireland's oldest literary journal, and *Trinity Women's & Gender Minorities Review*.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Journalism, Spoken Word, Short Stories, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Instagram:** @gabrielle.ie

**Linktree:** <https://linktr.ee/gabriellefullam>



**Neo Florence Gilson**

South African-born Neo Florence Gilson is a poet, singer and storyteller living in Cork. Neo's poems have appeared online and on radio, and she's performed at the DSAC Writers festival. Her work was part of 'Window to my World: Poetry, Resistance and Justice', curated for World Poetry Day by the Trinity Centre for Post-Conflict Justice, supported by the Trinity Long Room Hub. Neo was part of the Writing for Performance workshops run by Fishamble, the New Play Company based in Dublin; and her work was included in Outlandish Theatre's production *Love and Charity*. In 2021, she covered a song by the legendary South African singer Miriam Makeba for 'Entanglements – Africa and Dublin City', part of the Africa Day events hosted by the Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation. Neo has performed in South Africa, Ireland and the UK.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Children's Literature, Short Stories, Screenwriting, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @NeoGilson



**Alexandra Gogan**

Alexandra Gogan is a Romanian writer based in Dublin with a background in theatre and performing arts. She began writing monologues for acting auditions, followed by playwriting, short stories and dramatic adaptations of children's books for the independent theatre she co-founded after university. When she moved to Ireland she had planned to re-launch that project, but with original stories this time. This has led to her writing her own short stories and plays. In addition, Alexandra is currently writing a magical realist novel centred around our bond with nature and the yearning for both wandering and belonging. She aims to create a sense of wonder as readers and audiences experience the full spectrum of emotions, elevating storytelling for all.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Children's Literature, Short Stories, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Instagram:** @gogocherie





**Lind Grant-Oyeye**

Lind Grant-Oyeye is an Irish poet and critic of Nigerian descent. Her writing seeks to explore poetry as a medium for change. She is a recipient of the Ken Saro-Wiwa Poetry Prize and the UHRSN (Universal Human Rights Student Network) Human Rights Poetry Award, and was a winner of the *Irish Times*’ Africa Day writing competition. Lind is currently part of the Diversifying Irish Poetry programme for literary critics. Her work has been published in literary magazines, anthologies and other curated poetry projects in Ireland and globally, including *A New Ulster* e-zine, *Books Ireland* online magazine, the *New Orleans Review* and others. Lind was one of twelve Irish poets whose poetry was converted into song form by Una Lee for the spoken word album *Songs to Stay Awake to*.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word, Reviewing, Literary or Cultural Criticism

**Contact**

**Facebook:** @lindgrantoyeye



**Priyangee Guha**

Priyangee Guha is a lawyer, policy analyst and activist. In her legal career, she reviews legislation and also works with victims of violence, advocating for better legal and social responses to this crime. She has been published in *The Indian Express*, *The News Minute*, *Wikimedia* and *Point of View* among others. She writes about the criminal justice system, the impact of working with victims and the rights of disabled people. Apart from her main output of non-fiction, she has written one short story, retelling the ‘The Ugly Duckling’ fairy tale with an autistic protagonist (due to be published soon). Outside her legal career, Priyangee is a comedian who performs in comedy clubs in Dublin; she is also a registered solemniser, licensed to conduct weddings.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Short Stories, Screenwriting, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @pinguicverse

**Instagram:** @fontybusiness



**Dagogo Hart**

Dagogo Hart is a Dublin-based Nigerian writer and poet whose words have wowed audiences from bar basements to electric picnic stages. He started off performing at open mics and festivals, but is now more of a builder in the space, curating shows and organising communities to grow the poetry and spoken word scene in Ireland. Dagogo is one-third of WeAreGriot, a poetry collective that curates art events around poetry. His personal works include: *RedBeard Paddy* and *The Home Project* (poetry films), *See True* (a spoken word variety show) and *Boy Child* (a spoken word play), the last two co-written with FeliSpeaks and Talkatives, a hip-hop and poetry slam that are part of WeAreGriot.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @dondagz

**Instagram:** @ddagzy



**Mahito Indi Henderson**

Mahito Indi Henderson is a Dublin-based writer, actor and filmmaker. His light, often humorous personal essays investigate deeper issues related to multi-racial identity, as well as topics ranging from income inequality to horse riding. He is inspired by the work of Rosin Kiberd and David Sedaris, who exemplify two essential aspects of the essay genre: research and humour. Mahito has been writing seriously since he was eighteen and obtained a BA and an MA in creative writing. His work has been published in *The Moth*, *The Echo*, *The Disposable Stories*, *The Foundationalist* and *North by Northwestern*. In 2021, he was a finalist for *The Iowa Review Awards*, and was longlisted for the 2020/21 Fish Short Story Prize. Mahito is currently the coordinator of Skein Press’ Play It Forward Fellowships, a development programme aiming to make the literary industry a more equitable place for marginalised and underrepresented communities across Ireland.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Short Stories, Reviewing, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Via Skein Press at:** info@skeinpress.com



**Adiba Jaigirdar**

Adiba Jaigirdar is the critically-acclaimed and bestselling author of *The Henna Wars* (2020) and *Hani & Ishu’s Guide to Fake Dating* (2021). *The Henna Wars* has been described as ‘funny and heart-breaking by turns, written with both strong conviction and lightness of touch, this is a brilliant debut; romantic, thought-provoking and entirely unique’ (on news.yahoo.com). A Bangladeshi–Irish writer, she has an MA in Postcolonial Studies from the University of Kent, UK and a BA in English and History from University College Dublin. All of her writing is aided by tea and a healthy dose of Janelle Monáe and Hayley Kiyoko. When not writing, Adiba is probably ranting about the ills of colonialism, playing video games or expanding her overflowing lipstick collection.

**Genre/Form**

Young Adult, Romance

**Contact**

**www.adibajaigirdar.com**

**Twitter:** @adiba\_j

**Instagram:** @dibs\_j



**Nandi Jola**

Nandi Jola is studying for her MA in poetry at Queens University Belfast. She is on the 2022 Rachel Baptiste Programme with Smock Alley Theatre Dublin, and is commissioned poet on the 2022 James Joyce Ambiguities Programme of the Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris. Recently, she was Ulster University’s keynote speaker at the Books Beyond Boundaries NI Conference in January 2022. Nandi’s poem ‘Entomology’ represented Northern Ireland at the 2021 Transpoesie Poetry Festival in Brussels, and she was creative writing facilitator for Ulster University’s 2021 Books Beyond Boundaries NI Afrofuturism course. Her screenplay, *Partition*, was shown at the 2021 Belfast Film Festival, whilst her play, *The Journey*, opened at the 2020 International Literature Festival Dublin. Nandi has worked in schools for over a decade as a Cultural Awareness Ambassador and is a Tedx Talk speaker on climate change and poetry. Her debut poetry collection with Doire Press is out in Spring 2022.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Screenwriting, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @JolaNandi



**Jade Jordan**

Jade Jordan is a mixed-race Irish actor and author of *Nanny, Ma & Me* (Hachette, 2021). She studied screen acting at Dublin's Bow Street Academy. This year will see her in a number of productions: Kate Dolan's feature film *You Are Not My Mother*, Shaun Dunne's film documentary *How to Tell a Secret*; and, as a writer and producer, making her own short film *The Colour Between*. Her theatrical appearances include *Citysong* and *Dear Ireland* for the Abbey Theatre, the Coole Park Poetry Series and *Four Days in July* for Druid Theatre Company.

**Genre/Form**

Non-Fiction, Screenwriting, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@j\\_jordan88](#)



**Filomena Kaguako**

Filomena Kaguako is a Black Irish writer and TEDx speaker whose family are from Angola. After completing a postgrad in innovation and entrepreneurship in 2013, she started a lifestyle blog called *Enhance What's Yours*. What started as a hobby developed into an unexpected career in journalism, and Filomena has since been published in various Irish publications. In 2017, she addressed the fetishisation of black women in dating circles in Ireland through her viral open letter 'Dear Irishmen, Please Stop Sexualising Us'. In November 2020, four months after her first *Irish Times* magazine feature, she landed her first cover story for the publication, reporting on how people have been navigating romance during Covid times. She's now a regular contributor to the magazine and hopes to someday publish a collection of narrative essays covering a broad range of topics, from female sexuality to identity.

**Genre/Form**

Journalism

**Contact**

**Instagram:** [@filomenakaguako](#)



**Christie Kandiwa (Kayssie K.)**

Christie Kandiwa is a poet and singer-songwriter, also known as Kayssie K. She was born in Zimbabwe and raised in Ireland. Her work is influenced by blending her Zimbabwean cultural heritage and her Irish upbringing, and intertwining southern African myths and local languages and forms. Her work was selected for Poetry Ireland's 2019 Versify poetry development programme, and she was a panellist for the 2019 International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures conference event, 'Are We Doing Diversity Justice?'. In 2021, Christie was one of five Dream On Recipients facilitated by the Dublin Fringe Festival; she was also awarded a place on the Abbey Begins Programme workshops run by Dublin's Abbey Theatre for aspiring playwrights. Christie is published in *Writing Home: The 'New Irish' Poets* (Dedalus Press, 2019), edited by Pat Boran and Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi. She has participated in various shows such as the Adrian Brinkerhoff Project. In 2021, Christie was appointed Poet Laureate of Bray, County Wicklow.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Website:** [eminentyouthjournal.wordpress.com/royal-integrity/](#)



**Shubhangi Karmakar**

Shubhangi Karmakar is a medical academic, journalist, features writer and occasional poet. They learned English as their fourth language and first foreign language but, despite their proficiency in it, feel that it restricts the craft of many people of colour. From the Editorial Board of the *British Journal of Psychiatry* to global acclaim through their poetry in the St James' Hospital Poets and Players Society, their work uses personal reflections on health and social justice to bring healing. Inspired by An Crann Faoi Bláth by Declan Kiberd, they are currently working on thirteen personal essays, each written in a different language with an accompanying English translation, as a way of looking back lovingly on the learnings of their multilingual and multicultural life.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Non-Fiction

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@Repealist\\_](#)



**Nithy Kasa**

Nithy Kasa is an Ireland-based poet of Congolese origin. She started with Poetry Aloud at secondary school, joining Dublin Writers' Forum in 2011. She has read for Poetry Ireland, the National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG), the Royal Irish Academy, the Cúirt International Festival of Literature, University College Dublin, Ó Bhéal and others. She received a commission from Poetry Ireland in 2020, with the support of an Arts Council of Ireland Commission Award. Nithy has been on the shortlists of the Red Line Book Festival (2019) and The Eavan Boland Emerging Poet Awards (2021). Her poems, in the African storytelling style and with the perspective of a migrant, have featured in, among others: *Poetry Ireland Review*; *Trumpet*, in two Dedalus Press anthologies, *Writing Home: The New Irish Poets* (2019) and *Local Wonders: Poems of Our Immediate Surrounds* (2021); and in *Hold Open the Door* (UCD Press, 2020). Nithy's debut collection of poetry, *Palm Wine Tapper And The Boy At Jericho*, was published by Doire Press in 2022.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@NithyKasa](#)

**Facebook:** [Nithy Kasa](#)

**Instagram:** [@Nithykasa](#)



**Nyaradzo Masunda Katsamudanga**

Nyaradzo Masunda Katsamudanga grew up in rural Zimbabwe. Her love of poetry stems from African rhythms and rural folklore. Her poetry comes from deep within, a place full of questions and stories that are asked and told in a witty way. Nyaradzo writes lyrics, prose and terza rima. Her poetry has been published in: the *South Word Journal*; *Landing Places: Immigrant Poets in Ireland*, edited by Eva Bourke and Borbála Faragó (Dedalus, 2010); online magazine *Burning Bush 2*; one of the longest-running Irish literary journals, *The Stony Thursday Book*; and the 2018 Cork City anthology, *A Journey Called Home*.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry

**Contact**

**Via Cúirt International Festival of Literature at:** [info@cuirt.ie](#)





**Úna-Minh Kavanagh**

Úna-Minh Kavanagh is an Irish language speaker, journalist, travel writer and multimedia content creator. Her memoir, *Anseo*, came out in 2019 (New Island Books), and she recently self-published her e-book, *DIY Gaeilge: 150 Irish Language Resources* (2021). She's co-author of an upcoming Lonely Planet guide book (2022). She has long wanted to publish fiction and has shared extracts of her work live, for example, at the Cúirt International Festival of Literature, as well as through other panels and talks. Úna-Minh runs the good news website WeAreIrish.ie. She's an Anti-Racism Committee member supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, and won 2017 Social Activist of the Year at *U* Magazine's 30 Under 30 Awards.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Journalism, Young Adult, Science Fiction, Fantasy, Short Stories, Travel Writing, Nature Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@unaminhkavanagh](#)



**Emily Anna King**

Emily Anna King (锡萍芳) is pursuing her MA in creative writing at University College Cork. She mainly writes poetry, but also works in memoir and short stories. While her work often explores the Chinese–American adoptee experience, she is equally passionate about the intersectionality between language and music. She is currently interested in the theme of belonging, using her travels as a source of inspiration. Emily's most recent publications are in: *Tír na nÓg* magazine for contemporary literature and art; *Massachusetts Best Emerging Poets 2019: An Anthology* (Z Publishing); *Pamplemousse* (writing and literature from Northern Vermont University); *Lily Poetry Review*; and *Otherwise Engaged journal*. Apart from writing, she loves spending time with family, playing the piano, practising jiu-jitsu and baking.

**Genre/Form:**

Poetry

**Contact**

**Website:** [emilyannakingwriting.weebly.com](#)



**Charlot Kristensen**

Charlot Kristensen is a professional illustrator and author based in Dublin who has been working within the comic book and children's book industry since 2019. In 2020 she published her debut graphic novel, *What We Don't Talk About* (Avery Hill Publishing), which explores elements of subtle racism as seen within an interracial relationship. Half-Danish and half-Zimbabwean, her work emphasises diverse representation, with a focus on empowering black people. Charlot has previously worked for organisations including Google and *The Irish Times*, as well as publishers Scholastic and Penguin Random House.

**Genre/Form**

Children's Literature, Young Adult, Illustration, Comics/Graphic Novels

**Contact**

**Website:** [charlotkristensen.com/](#)



**Clara Kumagai**

Clara Kumagi was born in Canada to an Irish mother and a Japanese father, and lived in Ireland between the ages of five and twenty-three. She currently resides in Tokyo. Clara holds an MFA in creative writing from the University of British Columbia, Canada. She writes fiction and non-fiction for adults and young people and has been published in *The Stinging Fly*, *Banshee*, *Room*, *Event*, *The Kyoto Journal*, *The Irish Times*, *Ricepaper*, *Metropolis* and *Cicada* magazine among others. She was a finalist for the 2020 Jim Wong-Chu Emerging Writers Award and was a 2021 mentee on the US-based We Need Diverse Books mentorship programme. Clara's story, *A Girl Named Indigo*, was translated and published as a picture book in Japanese, entitled *Indigo wo sagashite* (Shogakukan, 2020). Her young adult novel, *Catfish Rolling*, will be published in 2023. Clara is represented by Angelique Tran Van Sang at the Felicity Bryan Agency.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children's Literature, Young Adult, Fantasy, Short Stories, Reviewing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@clarakiyoko](#)



**Simon Lewis**

Simon Lewis was the winner of the Hennessy Prize for Emerging Poetry and runner up in the 2015 Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award. His first book, *Jewtown* (Doire Press, 2016), was a finalist in the Shine/Strong Award. He has been shortlisted for the Listowel Poetry Prize, the Strokestown International Poetry Prize and the Bridport Prize, and received commendations in the Gregory O'Donoghue Prize and Dromineer Literary Prize. *Ah, Men!* (Doire Press, 2019), is his second collection.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry

**Contact**

**Website:** [simonlewis.ie](#)



**Sarah Little**

Sarah Little is a writer and artist who was born and raised in Fermanagh. She recently completed her degree in creative writing and art history. She is currently working on a YA speculative fiction novel which has elements of fantasy, quiet horror and comedy, whilst encompassing themes of identity, ethics, art and the artist. She enjoys writing characters with racial and neurological diversity. In 2020 she was selected for the Penguin WriteNow Mentorship Programme for underrepresented writers. Whilst Sarah's current focus is on completing her novel, she has continued to share her work with writers' groups, workshops, editors, competitions and writer development programmes.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Young Adult, Fantasy

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@\\_sarah\\_little](#)



**Maryam Madani**

Maryam Madani is a writer, freelance journalist, singer and disability activist, born in Ireland to Indian and Arab parents. She has a BA in English Studies (Trinity College Dublin) and an MA in journalism (Technological University Dublin). Maryam’s writing reflects her multi-layered experience as a physically disabled Indian–Irish woman, voicing the struggles of the disabled peoples’ movement and way of understanding disability which is still largely absent from mainstream narratives. Maryam has been published by *Headspace* magazine among others, and has worked in communications and policy for the Independent Living Movement Ireland. She’s a member of Webspinners, a creative writing group for disabled people, and sings and works for Discovery Gospel Choir, Ireland’s premiere multicultural choir. Maryam is the founder of Disability Pride Ireland.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Short Stories, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Website:** [keepitwheel.ie](http://keepitwheel.ie)



**Cauvery Madhavan**

Cauvery Madhavan came to Ireland thirty-five years ago. Her first two books, *Paddy Indian* (Penguin India) and *The Uncoupling* (BlackAmber, UK), were published to wide critical acclaim. *Paddy Indian* was described as ‘sparkling cross-cultural social comedy ... A compulsively readable new voice’ by the *Irish Examiner*. Her latest novel, *The Tainted* (HopeRoad, UK), was one of Sebastian Barry’s Laureate Picks in 2020. It was An Post Irish Book Awards’ Top Five Summer Reads, was selected by *The Times* (UK) as one of their top forty historical fiction novels and was runner-up in The Society for Army Historical Research Prize for Military Fiction. Cauvery is a proud ambassador for the Play It Forward Fellowships and served as a judge for the Irish Novel Fair 2022. She is on the Board of Directors for Bewley’s Cafe Theatre and is working on her fourth novel.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction

**Contact**

**Website:** [www.cauverymadhavan.com/](http://www.cauverymadhavan.com/)



**Wuraola (Ola) Majekodunmi**

Ola Majekodunmi was born in Lagos, Nigeria, and raised in Dublin. She is a writer, broadcaster, freelance journalist, Gaeilgeoir, public speaker, creator, co-founder of Beyond Representation, on the Board of Directors of Foras na Gaeilge, Dublin Film Festival, and a member of Galway Film Centre’s National Talent Academy Steering Committee. Ola has been writing creatively since she was at school, experimenting with short stories. As an adult she also started to write poetry, and is planning a memoir, having completed a Compelling Memoir course with London Lit Lab last year. Some of Ola’s work has already been published, especially her Irish language work, such as ‘Gruaig na mBan Dubh’ in Marcus Mac Conghail’s *Meascra*, her poem ‘Ar Aghaidh Linn’ in the magazine *Comhar* and a poem, ‘Be Brave’ on the Diverse In website.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Journalism, Spoken Word, Short Stories, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@olamajekodunmi1](https://twitter.com/olamajekodunmi1)



**Khanyisile Mbukwane**

Khanyisile Mbukwane is a poet, performer, creative and body positive activist based in Dublin. Their poetry focuses on their upbringing in South Africa and the trauma Khanyisile has faced, using it as a tool to address systematic issues and how they have affected them as a Black Queer woman. At the age of eighteen, Khanyisile was honoured as a ‘youth of change’ by Swaziland’s royal family. Khanyisile has been published on and interviewed for the online blog, *Black Joy Theory*; Khanyisile was also identified as a ‘woman to watch’ by the self-love online journal [lambeyoutiful.co.uk](http://lambeyoutiful.co.uk), which Khanyisile now writes for. Their work was included in the *Tongues* anthology published by Black Queer collective Origins Eile, and Khanyisile has been commissioned by online urban and youth magazine *Slight Motif Ireland*. Khanyisile’s performances include the first annual Black Queer book club event and Talkatives slam poetry event.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word, Romance, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@KhaniMbukwane](https://twitter.com/KhaniMbukwane)

**Instagram:** [@KhanyisileMbukwane](https://www.instagram.com/KhanyisileMbukwane)



**Rosaleen McDonagh**

Rosaleen McDonagh is a playwright, performer, columnist for *The Irish Times* and member of Aosdána. Her plays include *The Baby Doll Project*, *She’s Not Mine*, *Rings*, *The Prettiest Proud Boy* and *Mainstream*. Her most recent commissions were *Walls and Windows* for the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, and *Contentious Spaces* for the Project Arts Centre. Rosaleen holds a BA, two MPhils from Trinity College Dublin and a PhD from Northumbria University. She is a board member of Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and was appointed a Human Rights Commissioner in June 2020. *Unsettled* (Skein Press, 2021) is her first book.

**Genre/Form**

Non-Fiction, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Agent:** [marianne@mariannegunnoconnor.com](mailto:marianne@mariannegunnoconnor.com)



**Raquel McKee**

Raquel lives in Northern Ireland. She uses Jamaican dub poetry and other styles/genres to address social issues. She is a Poetry in Motion workshop facilitator with Community Arts Partnership and a repeat Arts Council of Northern Ireland awardee. In 2021, she was commissioned by the Cúirt International Festival of Literature to write a poem celebrating a BBC *Arena* documentary film for their *Your Local Arena* event (with Lucy Hannah and Speaking Volumes). She was also commissioned by African and Caribbean Support Northern Ireland (ACSONI) for their *Links and Legacy 400 Year Commemoration* project, reflecting on 1619 being the start of the forced movement of African people across the Atlantic. Raquel has been reading at open mics and festivals for four years in person and online. She has a manuscript awaiting acceptance from a publisher, and poems published in various physical and digital anthologies.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@MckeeRaquel](https://twitter.com/MckeeRaquel)





**Rafael  
Mendes**

Rafael Mendes is a writer and translator from Brazil. He migrated to Ireland in 2016 to learn English. In 2018 he joined a writers’ group at the Irish Writers Centre and began his trajectory of writing in a second language. In 2021 he was a recipient of a bursary to develop his skills through the Centre’s creative writing courses and one-to-one mentoring. Rafael writes poetry and short stories, and translates between Portuguese and English. His work has appeared in *The Irish Times*, *FLARE*, *The Blue Nib*, *Writing Home: The New Irish Poets* (Dedalus Press, 2019), *Arrival at Elsewhere* (Against the Grain, 2020), *LITRO* magazine and elsewhere. His translations of Brazilian poetry have been published in *Cyphers* and *Icarus*. Rafael has read his work at open mics in Dublin, on *The Poetry Programme* on RTÉ Radio 1, at the 2021 Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary and Arts Festival and for the Irish Poetry Archive.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Instagram:** @rafaelmendes341



**Nita Mishra**

Indian-born Irish citizen Dr Nita Mishra is a researcher and part-time lecturer based at University College Cork. Her teaching includes feminist methodologies, environment and development, and human rights-based approaches. Her published writing includes academic book chapters and journal articles, reflective pieces and newspaper articles. She is also increasingly using creative writing, especially poetry, as a tool in teaching and understanding feminist research methodologies in the university. Nita’s poetry was critically acclaimed as the future of Irish feminisms in 2016 and as one of the very first new migrant voices in poetry since 2011. As a brown migrant woman, she finds it easier to use poetry to communicate difficult experiences and to speak of the lives of women she’s met across continents. Nita spoke at the 2020 and 2021 International Dublin Writers Festivals about diversity and inclusion in poetry, and being a woman of letters.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Non-Fiction, Reviewing, Literary or Cultural Criticism, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @NitaMishra23



**Anesu Khanya  
Mtowa**

Anesu Khanya Mtowa was born in the North of Ireland to a South African writer mother. She is a poet who has been writing from the age of fourteen. She began writing as a way to consolidate her Irish identity with her black experience, and has continued in order to explore both femininity and queerness through language. Poetry for her has always been about weaving together parts of herself and personal experiences that she has struggled to understand. Most recently, Anesu was published as one of six writers in *Awkward Middle Children: Emerging Writers from Northern Ireland* (2021), edited by Caitlin Young, which was part of the 21 Artists for the 21st Century project. Her work can also be found in the tenth issue of Poetry Ireland’s *Trumpet* literary pamphlet. Anesu has performed for Queen’s University Belfast African Caribbean Society’s Black History Month event on three occasions.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @ulster\_afro



**Majed Mujed**

Majed Mujed is an Iraqi poet, writer and journalist who has resided in Dublin for seven years. Writing in Arabic, his poetry focuses on love, as well as being a stranger in a strange land. One of the founders of the Iraqi House of Poetry, he has worked in the Iraqi cultural press for twenty years. He has published three poetry collections in Iraq and two in Egypt. Majed received awards in Iraq from the Al Mada Cultural Foundation, the Iraqi House of Wisdom and the Iraqi Intellectuals Conference, as well as a prize for his journalism. In Ireland, he was longlisted for the 6press’ 2021 ‘invitation to love’ poetry contest and was awarded a 2021/22 Play It Forward Fellowship, a joint initiative between Skein Press and *The Stinging Fly* magazine to amplify the talents of writers whose voices have traditionally been underrepresented in Irish literature and publishing. Majed is a member of the Iraqi and Arab Writers’ Union.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry

**Contact**

**Via Cúirt International Festival of Literature**  
**at:** info@cuirt.ie



**Philomena  
Mullen**

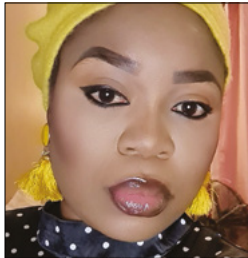
A Black Studies lecturer at Trinity College Dublin, Philomena Mullen was born to an Irish mother and a Nigerian father, and spent her first sixteen years in an Irish industrial school. Her writing tries to make sense of her jumbled life, as well as her odd family trio – parents and confused and often picaresque child – who never understood each other. She has been supported and encouraged by Skein Press to develop her stories further. Philomena has read at: the Mountains to Sea dlr Book Festival (Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council); Silence+Voice – A Festival of Feminisms; the Irish Writers Centre (with EPIC Writers Group); the Royal Irish Academy; the Irish Museum of Modern Art’s Summer School; *Breaking the Silence* – Creative Responses to the Legacy of Ireland’s Mother and Baby Home Institutions (National Concert Hall and International Literature Festival Dublin project, 2021); and Echoes: Maeve Binchy and Irish Writers Festival.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @Phil\_Mullen\_



**Owodunni Ola  
Mustapha**

Owodunni Ola Mustapha was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria, relocating to Ireland in 2014. Her writing is inspired by her experience of prolonged living in the Direct Provision system in Ireland, highlighting the struggles of asylum seekers navigating their way through the rigorous constraints imposed on them. Owodunni started documenting the experiences of the black community as a freelance writer in 2018, then began writing short stories and poems. Some of her published poems include: ‘Up the hill in Mayo’ in *Correspondences: An anthology to call for the end to direct provision* (ed. Jessica Traynor and Stephen Rae); ‘The Unknown’ in *MASI Journal* (2019); and ‘6 Autumns’ in *I am man of peace: writings inspired by the Maynooth University Ken Saro-Wiwa collection* (2020). Owodunni has spoken and read at various events, such as the 2020 WomenXBorders Readathon and on a 2020 RTÉ poetry programme.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @ddiezworld



**Eppnoggia Mutetwa**

Eppnoggia Mutetwa is an intersectional feminist, scholar, published author, poet and human rights and mental health activist. Their work speaks to various social ills, with a focus on religion, gender, sexual orientation and sometimes politics. Their writings are meant to push people to feel uncomfortable about being conservative and to spark conversations on topics that are usually silenced in the mainstream media. Eppnoggia's work has been published both online and in print. They also write website and blog articles, and participate in open mic events as a spoken word artist.

**Genre/Form:**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Journalism, Spoken Word, Short Stories, Literary or Cultural Criticism

**Contact**

**Via Cúirt International Festival of Literature**  
**at: [info@cúirt.ie](mailto:info@cúirt.ie)**



**Tapasya Narang**

Dr Tapasya Narang is an Indian literary critic and scholar who has been living in Ireland for five years. Her PhD was on contemporary Irish and Indian poetry (1960s-2020). Through research in ephemera and as a literary critic, she draws attention to lesser known literary works and creative voices, thereby redrawing cultural histories. She is currently writing on Irish women's small presses from the 1970s and 80s, funded by an Irish Arts Council Agility grant. She is a full-time lecturer at Dublin City University and an adjunct at Trinity College Dublin. With a career as a literary critic spanning over a decade, Tapsaya's creative work has also appeared in RTÉ Brainstorm, Poetry Ireland's *Trumpet* and Culture Trip.com.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Non-Fiction, Literary or Cultural Criticism

**Contact**

**Twitter: [@NarangTapasya](https://twitter.com/NarangTapasya)**



**Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan**

Chandrika Narayanan-Mohan is a Dublin-based writer and performer from India, focusing mainly on poetry, essays and flash fiction. She has been writing for many years, but her first big break was being included in *Writing Home: The 'New Irish' Poets* (Dedalus Press, 2019), edited by Pat Boran and Chiamaka Enyi-Amadi. Since then, she has had work published in anthologies by Lifeboat Press, UCD Press and Poetry Ireland, and in journals such as *Banshee*, *Poetry Ireland Review* and *The Honest Ulsterman*. She was guest editor of Poetry Ireland's *Trumpet* (issue 9), which had the theme of 'Fear and Release'. Chandrika has performed and been on panels at many festivals, including the International Literature Festival Dublin, Cúirt International Festival of Literature, South Dublin County's Red Line Book Festival and more. She is a book reviewer for Children's Books Ireland's *Inis* magazine and is on the Board of the Irish Writers Centre. Chandrika is currently working on a poetry collection, an essay collection and a project that involves poems about solar flare research.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Spoken Word, Short Stories, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Website: [www.chandrika.ie/](http://www.chandrika.ie/)**



**Sandrine Ndahiro**

Sandrine Ndahiro is a Rwandese-Irish PhD candidate, writer, filmmaker and activist who started writing creatively in 2020 in the wake of Black Lives Matter. She is the co-founder and co-editor-in-chief of the literary and cultural magazine *Unapologetic*, which aims to give a safe space to minority communities. Her life writing essays tackle issues of identity and hybridity, whilst also highlighting the changing nature of Irishness and Irish writers, who are transforming the cultural landscape. Her work has appeared at the Dingle Literary Festival and on the Frederick Douglass Festival website. Sandrine is a regular contributor to the online publication, *Rogue Collective*, and her work was recently included in an anthology of Irish women writers.

**Genre/Form**

Literary or Cultural Criticism, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter: [@NdahiroSandrine](https://twitter.com/NdahiroSandrine)**



**Kebeh Ofem**

Kebeh Ofem is a Nigerian-born, Dublin-based emerging short fiction writer and music commentator exploring romance and young adult genres scored by indie music. 'Falling', the lead short story in her creative writing MA thesis, earned her a first-class degree and an invitation to join New York University's (NYU) Creative Writing Summer Intensive course. She has read her stories at the American College Dublin and at NYU's Tisch School of Arts and School of Professional Studies. Kebeh is a member of the Irish Writers Centre and has been selected for the UpLift: Young Leaders of Colour in Literature Initiative (run by the Centre and Words of Colour Productions), a new international workshop and mentoring initiative for young people of colour with ambitions of leadership in the literature sector across Ireland and the UK. She is currently working towards completing her short fiction collection and is also exploring screenwriting ideas.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Young Adult, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Twitter & Instagram: [@ComplexMediocre](https://twitter.com/ComplexMediocre)**



**Amélie (Amz) O'Kelly**

Amz O'Kelly is seventeen and is Asian-Irish, born in China but raised in Ireland since she was a year old. She has always had an affinity with rhythm and words for as long as she can remember. For Amz, music and stories are beautiful threads that complement each other, entwining profoundly into the tapestry of her world. In 2020, she was selected as one of the fifteen winners of the inaugural Edna O'Brien Young Writers Bursary with the MoLi Museum. Amz contributed to the 2021 Deep Roots Poetry Exchange and won first place in her school's short story competition. She would love to study literature at college and to write stories about people like her.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Spoken Word, Young Adult, Fantasy, Short Stories, Romance, Screenwriting, Playwriting, Song writing

**Contact**

**Instagram: [amz.\\_okelly](https://www.instagram.com/amz._okelly)**





**Abby Oliveira**

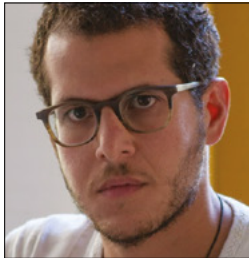
Based in Derry, Abby Oliveira has been working as a writer, performer, lyricist and theatre maker since 2006. She has appeared on the Irish spoken word scene for over a decade, as well as performing extensively at festivals and events. Abby has toured her work in the UK, Australia, New Zealand (via support from Arts Council NI), and Singapore. She has received writing commissions from BBC Radio 4 (the latest being a fiction work for their Short Works series), RTÉ Radio, The MAC Belfast and others. Most recently, Abby's work has appeared in: *The 32: An Anthology of Irish Working-Class Voices*, edited by Paul McVeigh (Unbound, 2021); *The New Frontier: Reflections from the Irish Border*, edited by James Conor Patterson (New Island, 2021); and *Empty House: Poetry and Prose on the Climate Crisis* (Doire Press, 2021).

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Spoken Word, Short Stories, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Website:** [www.abbyoliveira.com](http://www.abbyoliveira.com)



**Hussein  
Ahmed  
Hussein Omar**

Hussein Omar was born in Cairo and educated in the UK. He trained primarily as an academic and, after working in the theatre, returned to academia. He now teaches history at University College Dublin. His scholarly book on the history of anti-colonial ideas will be published by Oxford University Press. Gradually experimenting with creative non-fiction, he had a short piece of writing published in the 2012 Global Art Forum. Hussein is currently writing a book of essays called *City of the Dead*. It tells the intertwined stories of his family, his mother's death and Cairo's necropolis, now on the verge of demolition, across 500 years.

**Genre/Form**

Non-Fiction, Reviewing, Literary or Cultural Criticism, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@chebhocine](https://twitter.com/chebhocine)



**Emer O'Neill**

Emer O'Neill is of Irish–Nigerian descent. A mother of two, she holds a BA and a Masters in Education. Having taught for over thirteen years, she became a presenter for RTÉ's Home School Hub and also their *Today* show. Emer is an activist who is a founding member of Bray For Love, an anti-racism group. She and a colleague wrote an anti-racism policy for schools, which they are working to make part of the Irish Board of Education's schools' policies. Emer has also helped to develop anti-racism continuing professional development (CPD) training for the Irish National Teachers Organisation, the country's oldest and largest teaching union. She has been writing poetry for years and has just produced a children's book; she also composes music and sings. In the near future, Emer hopes to publish an autobiography.

**Genre/Form**

Children's Literature

**Contact**

**Instagram:** [@Emeroneill14](https://www.instagram.com/Emeroneill14)



**Annie Yellowe  
Palma**

Annie Yellowe Palma was one of the first black children of Ulster. She lived with her mum behind the barricades in Portadown, the centre of the notorious murder triangle, for over twenty years during the Troubles. She is the award-winning author of *For the Love of a Mother (The Black Children of Ulster)*, which highlights her personal experiences at the height of the Troubles in the 1960s. As a freelance writer, Annie has published numerous articles and has spoken widely about issues relating to racism on the island of Ireland. She has been a guest speaker at Queen's University Belfast and on several radio stations across the UK, including Croydon FM, an independent local station that reaches younger audiences. As a human rights activist and an alternative researcher, she has introduced ground-breaking concepts in relation to racism and child abuse. Annie was nominated as a Positive Role Model for the National Diversity Award in 2021.

**Genre/Form**

Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@annieyellowepalmabooks](https://twitter.com/annieyellowepalmabooks)



**Shubhangi  
Pandey**

Born in India, Shubhangi Pandey worked in the education and media industries as a content marketing writer before deciding to pursue creative writing academically. She recently completed her MA in Creative Writing at NUI Galway. She has published several blogs and magazines for both private and non-profit organisations. As a guest writer, she has also published articles for *Tripoto* (on travel), *The Cinemaholics* (on film) and written an essay for *The Galway Advertiser*. She wants to continue writing experimental non-fiction pieces as well as short stories that explore the human psyche and its motivations.

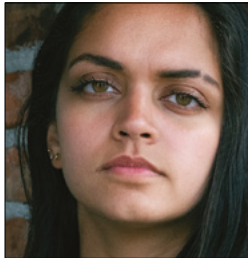
**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Journalism, Short Stories, Biography and Life Writing, Travel Writing, Nature Writing, Essays, hybrid genres (poetry and short story)

**Contact**

**Instagram:**

[@blackwhiteandthegreysinbetween](https://www.instagram.com/blackwhiteandthegreysinbetween)



**Saakshi Patel**

Saakshi Patel was born and raised in Bombay. She's been writing since childhood; some of her short stories featured in her high school newsletters, and her earliest poems appeared in university magazines during her undergraduate studies. She earned an MA in Poetry from Queen's University Belfast, receiving the Seamus Heaney Centre International Scholarship. Winner of the 2021 Ireland Chair of Poetry Student Award, Saakshi has had poems published in *Local Wonders* (Dedalus), *The Honest Ulsterman* and *yolk* literary journal. She has performed spoken word at a café in Mumbai, at the Music and Mind Festival in Whitehead, Northern Ireland, and at the installation ceremony of Hillary Clinton as Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast. Themes of Saakshi's poems include: home, tropical climate, loneliness, garlic, *Real Housewives*, migration, snails and finding meaningful patterns in the world. Her new work will appear in *Washing Windows Too* (Arlen House and Catatonic Daughters) among other publications.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@saaker007](https://twitter.com/saaker007)



**Tanuja Patil**

Tanuja Patil is from Mumbai, India, and came to Ireland in October 2021 to pursue her love of writing. She started writing at the age of eleven, first poetry and then stories and screenplays. Tanuja likes to take a piece of her life and blend it with her imagination. She has performed in various competitions and at poetry nights. She has published six poems in an international journal and is currently working on a novel which focuses on the journey of three Indian women, their married lives and the obstacles they face. The novel reveals the bittersweet truth of Indian society and the way women are treated.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Young Adult, Short Stories, Romance, Screenwriting, Biography and Life Writing, Travel Writing

**Contact**

**Instagram:** [@pronto009](#)



**Marguerite Penrose**

Marguerite Penrose was born in a Dublin mother and baby home in 1974, the daughter of an Irish mother and a Zambian father. She has severe scoliosis, but at the age of three was fostered – and later adopted – by a young couple. It wasn't until her teens that she understood her skin colour was a provocation for some. This is the basis of Marguerite's first book, *Yeah, but where are you really from?*, published by Penguin Ireland in May 2022. She writes about coming to terms with the circumstances of her birth and, like so many in her position, looking for answers. Themes include navigating the world as an active woman with a disability and what it means to be both Irish and black. Marguerite was previously published in *Being Irish* (2021), writings by a selection of celebrities and non-celebrities on their take of 'being Irish', and has two short pieces on the Black and Irish Instagram page.

**Genre/Form**

Non-Fiction

**Contact**

**Publicity manager:** Louise Farrell at Penguin Ireland, [lfarrell@penguinrandomhouse.ie](mailto:lfarrell@penguinrandomhouse.ie)



**Yovanka Paquete Perdigão**

Yovanka Paquete Perdigão was born in Lisbon and grew up in Guinea-Bissau until the age of six, when civil war forced her family to relocate to Lisbon. She has since lived in Abidjan, Dakar, London and now Dublin. Yovanka's writing has been deeply inspired by her early experiences of conflict. When she returned to Guinea-Bissau after more than twenty years, she became interested in researching Portuguese colonial legacies in Lusophone Africa, discovering the impact across oceans and in her own family. Yovanka has since worked to champion Lusophone African stories as an editor, translator and formerly a podcaster on the *Not Another Book podcast*. Yovanka's writing has been featured in the *Johannesburg Review of Books*, *AFREDA* online magazine etc. She was shortlisted for Penguin's 2016 WriteNow initiative, for Spread the Word's City of Stories competition and for the 2018/19 Miles Morland scholarship.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Non-Fiction

**Contact**

**Website:** [www.yovanka.co.uk/](http://www.yovanka.co.uk/)



**Holly Pereira**

Holly Pereira has been practising as an artist for nearly twenty years. She is an illustrator and muralist based in Dublin. Her work is colourful, fun and bold. Her hand-painted murals often take reference from folk art, and she creates bright and exuberant environments which everyone is invited to explore. She also likes to celebrate her love of typography and language, eking meaning out of imagery and imagery out of meaning. This work ranges from place-making murals, which encourage a sense of community or pride in a place, to lettering design and illustrated typography. Through all her art-making, Holly seeks to explore the effects of colour, light and design in the public space and how people experience it.

**Genre/Form**

Illustration

**Contact**

**Website:** [www.hollypereira.com/](http://www.hollypereira.com/)



**Rachel Ramirez**

Rachel Ramirez is a poet, fiction writer and lecturer who is based in Dublin, where she lives with her partner and children. She is a first generation Filipina–American, a New Yorker who grew up listening to her family's stories of the Philippines. The Filipino diaspora is the focus of much of her writing. Rachel has a degree from Barnard College, an MSc from Trinity College Dublin, and an MA in creative writing from Dublin City University (DCU). She continues to share her fiction and poetry with her DCU classmates and alumni as part of a DCU alumni writers' group. Rachel has performed her poetry as part of the LGBTQ+ Pride Poetry Event, and has submitted her fiction to numerous publications in the USA, Ireland and the UK for publication.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@rachie\\_ramirez](#)



**Aashima Rana**

Aashima Rana is a Government of Ireland International Education Scholar at the DCU School of English. Her research explores connections between the United States of America, India and Ireland. She has a rich knowledge of folklore from India, and aspires to collect folklore from Ireland and analyse the similarities both cultures potentially share. Aashima has been a freelance writer since 2017, writing articles on happiness, trust and relationships. In 2019 she started writing for RTÉ's Brainstorm and disseminating her knowledge of folklore. In addition, she's been presenting poetry at Dublin Writers Group open mic events. Aashima says that, with her work, she 'aims to walk down the lane of trans-continental, trans-national, trans-cultural homogenisation through orality'.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Folklore

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@AashimaRana4](#)





**Charlotte  
Rea-Patel**

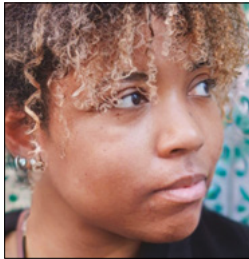
Charlotte Rea-Patel is a writer of Irish–Gujarati heritage based in County Derry. She has been writing for almost ten years, but it wasn’t until she joined the Burnavon Writers’ Group in 2017 that she began looking at her work more seriously, digging deep to find the truths under her skin and sharpening her edges. Charlotte writes poetry and YA fiction. She was awarded funding from the Arts Council Northern Ireland’s Minority Ethnic Artists Mentoring and Residency Programme to assist in developing her YA fantasy novel with the intention of publication; this included being mentored by a published author in that field. In 2019, she won a bursary place at the John Hewitt Summer School and spent a wonderful week giving herself full permission to be a writer. Charlotte has read her work at International Women’s Day, the John Hewitt Festival (with Women Aloud) and Ireland Poetry Day.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Young Adult, Fantasy, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@CharlotteReaPa1](#)



**Kimberly  
Reyes**

Kimberly Reyes lived and went to school in Cork, but now splits her time between Ireland and the USA. She is a former music journalist who turned to creative writing in 2014, focusing mostly on issues of identity, ecology and sexuality. Kimberly is the author of the poetry books *Running to Stand Still* (Omnidawn, 2019) and *Warning Coloration* (dancing girl press, 2018). Her essay collection *Life During Wartime* (Fourteen Hills, 2019) won the 2018 Michael Rubin Book Award, and her pieces have also appeared in various anthologies and international publications. Kimberly was a 2019-20 Fulbright Fellow studying Irish literature and film at University College Cork. She has also received fellowships from organisations including the Poetry Foundation, the Academy of American Poets, CantoMundo, *Callaloo* and The Irish Arts Council.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Non-Fiction, Journalism, Reviewing, Literary or Cultural Criticism, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Website:** [kimberlyreyes.online/](#)



**Tanvi Emma  
Roberts**

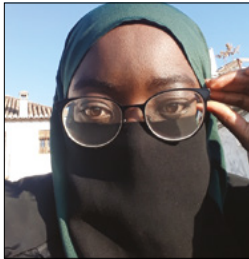
Of Indian origin, Tanvi Roberts has lived in Belfast since she was a few months old. She started writing poems as a teenager. At school, she was part of a monthly writing group and twice attended Arvon courses on full bursaries. She continued writing while studying classics at Cambridge, also performing at open-mic nights and organising poetry workshops and readings with poets including Sasha Dugdale and Lavinia Greenlaw. Her poetry has appeared in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *The Moth*, *Trumpet* and *The Mays Anthology*. Her work won the John Kinsella and Tracy Ryan Poetry Prize and was shortlisted for the Aurora Prize for New Writing. From 2019-2020, she ran a weekly poetry mailing list for almost 200 people. She is currently reviewing for *The Irish Times*, *Poetry Ireland Review* and *The Dublin Review of Books*.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word, Reviewing, Literary or Cultural Criticism

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@TanviRoberts](#)



**Fadilah  
Salawu**

Fadilah Salawu is a budding student writer who is currently feeling her way through different genres. A Muslim Irish–Nigerian, she uses that lens to explore the world around her and the masks that people wear. Her poetry, essays and creative non-fiction probe topics with a unique tone and morally questioning gaze. She has been a Young Writer Delegate for the International Literature Festival Dublin and also occasionally appears on radio and podcasts. Fadilah self-publishes online through platforms such as Medium and publications like *Kalahari Review*.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Non-Fiction, Short Stories, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Twitter:** [@fadilah\\_salawu](#)



**Sree Sen**

From India, Sree Sen relocated to Dublin in 2019 to study for an MA in creative writing at University College Dublin (UCD). Prior to that, she had been a journalist, with her articles appearing in *The Hindu Business Line*, *Firstpost*, *DNA*, the *Times of India* and other media. Her creative works have appeared in *Poetry Ireland Review*, Dedalus Press’ *Local Wonders* anthology, *The Honest Ulsterman*, *bath magg*, *The Night Heron Barks* and others. She won the 2020 UCD Maeve Binchy Travel Award, was selected for the 2020 Cill Rialaig Residency, and received the 2021 Agility Award from the Arts Council of Ireland. Her debut poetry pamphlet *Cracked Asphalt* will be published by Fly On The Wall Press in August 2022.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Journalism, Short Stories

**Contact**

**Website:** [www.sreesen.com/](#)



**ShivaRJoyce**

ShivaRJoyce is a poet, storyteller and printmaker. Her work is visual and verbal, spanning poetry, prose and oral storytelling, and reflective of the mixed heritages of narrative that imbue her personal BrownSkinsIslanderGal history and ancestry. For three years she has worked as a storyteller, cultivating the creative writing of young people through Graffiti Theatre’s Fighting Words programme established by Roddy Doyle and Sean Love. She is a guest editor at *Good Day Cork*, a digital zine amplifying underrepresented Irish voices, which was the first media space in Ireland developed and run by BrownSkinGals. She is currently working on her project, ‘The Cartography of other’, rendering multimedia realities of ‘othering’, both external and internal, of the feminine self. ShivaRJoyce’s ethnoecological print and poetry collection, *Talanoa*, is set for release in 2023.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Journalism, Children’s Literature, Young Adult, Illustration, Fantasy, Short Stories, Literary or Cultural Criticism, Playwriting, Biography and Life Writing, Travel Writing, Arts as Activism and Literary Academic Writing

**Contact**

**Website:** [shivarjoyce.com/](#)



**Kemi George Simpson**

Kemi George Simpson has lived in Cork for almost sixteen years, raising her four mixed-race boys. She writes poems, short stories, songs and essays, including one about the ‘N’ word. She has read at O’bheal open mic and also at the 2020 winter festival’s closed mic. She writes poems for Africans Connect and Africa Day in Cork, and has participated in a Gallery Press workshop with Peter Sirr for emerging poets. Kemi is fascinated by the way we relate to each other and our environment, and by our perceptions of history. Cross-generational connections are a constant interest; she also explores issues of cultural and spiritual identity, and society’s impact on mental health. Kemi has written a poetry collection about immigration and its ramifications, has two unfinished poetry collections about lockdown and trees, as well as a book of short stories.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Non-Fiction, Short Stories, Nature Writing, Lyrics

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @KemiSimpson



**Pallavi Singh**

Pallavi Singh is a poet, writer, journalist and business history scholar based in Belfast. She is an alumnus of the London School of Economics. Pallavi started writing for newspapers as a teenager in 2003, and worked as a journalist with leading newspapers in India for eight years. She continues to write as an independent journalist; her writing has appeared in *Mint*, the *Hindustan Times*, the *Indian Express*, *Moneycontrol*, *Muse India*, *Punch* magazine and the *Madras Courier* among others. She is the recipient of writing grants from the Centre for Creative Practices in Ireland, supported by the Irish Arts Council, the Irish Writers Centre and Arts Council of Northern Ireland, and is part of the Northern Ireland Stanza of the Poetry Society. Pallavi’s first English poetry collection, *Orisons in the dark*, is forthcoming in 2022. She is currently working on a narrative story commissioned by *The Economist* (UK).

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Journalism, Literary or Cultural Criticism

**Contact**

**Website:** [www.econhistorienne.com](http://www.econhistorienne.com)

**Twitter:** @econhistorienne



**Nomasiza Rejoice Siziba**

Nomasiza Rejoice Siziba (aka LIONESS) is a dancer, actor, author, healer and spirit medium who was born in Zimbabwe. Studying at a local school in a high-density suburb where life was challenging made her strive, and she discovered her calling as an artist at the age of nine, wanting to learn more about different cultures and traditions. She started to keep a journal as a teenager. Nomasiza has shared her experiences at conferences and online via different platforms, and is working towards publishing her first book, based on true stories which can help to educate and teach others. She has also performed in many places around southern Africa.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word, Comics/Graphic Novels, Short Stories, Biography and Life Writing, Nature Writing

**Contact**

**Via Cúirt International Festival of Literature at:** [info@cuirt.ie](mailto:info@cuirt.ie)



**Tari Takavarasha**

Tari Takavarasha has been working and living in Dublin since 2018. She is passionate poet, performer and writer whose work explores themes of friendship, excellence, blackness, pain and love. She has performed for Glitterhole, Spicebag, BlackJam and the Sunshine Tantrum tour. She has been featured in the Dublin Fringe festival, and her two-woman show, *The Language I Cannot Speak*, was commissioned as part of the Dublin International Literature Festival. She has also spoken about her work for the *Boundless and Bare* podcast and on LGBTLife radio. Tari is a familiar face on the Dublin open mic scene.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word

**Contact**

**Instagram:** @tarirot



**Sasha Terfous**

Recently announced as the Poet Laureate for Wexford, Sasha Terfous is one of the most important figures in Ireland’s spoken word community. Using her work as a form of activism, her poetry draws attention to the voices that should be heard and issues that need to be addressed – be it the racism and homophobia of her youth in a small rural town or larger issues such as climate change and the Black Lives Matter movement. Sasha has been performing poetry for almost eight years, after deciding to take it seriously as a career rather than just a hobby. Since then, she has shared her work with thousands of people through media campaigns, charity commissions, panel discussions, open mic nights, festival performances, magazine articles, website forums and social media platforms.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word

**Contact**

**Instagram:** @sashaterfous

**Manager:** [annette@wordupcollective.com](mailto:annette@wordupcollective.com)



**Nqobizitha Vella**

Nqobizitha Vella is an author and poet, and a student of film and screen media at University College Cork. She is a feminist born and raised in Zimbabwe, and has been living in Ireland for six years. Nqobizitha started writing in 2018 whilst still in the Direct Provision System, publishing her stories on Facebook. Writing and posting 1,500 words in Ndebele and English every day for a year, she developed a following of 10,000 readers. Her debut book, *Umendo So!*, is a novel written in Ndebele which challenges the traditional perceptions about the girl child and the woman in an African home. Her linked short stories and poems have been published in magazines and presented at various festivals and events in Ireland, including Listowel Writers’ Week Festival. One of her short stories is featured in the *Cork Words 2: An Anthology of Cork City Writing* (Cork City Library, 2022). Nqobizitha’s most recent project was ‘Earth Song’, where seven poets produced work on climate change in their native languages for Cork City Library.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Fantasy, Short Stories, Literary or Cultural Criticism, Screenwriting

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @MaVella





**Mary Watson**

Mary Watson is from Cape Town, South Africa, and now lives on the west coast of Ireland. She has a PhD from the University of Cape Town, where she taught for many years. She won the Caine Prize for African Fiction in 2006 and writes short stories, contemporary fiction and young adult fantasy. Mary has five books published (or forthcoming). The first, published in 2004, was a collection of connected short stories; she wrote the first drafts of this while completing her MA in creative writing at the University of Cape Town under the mentorship of André Brink. This, and her second book, the novel *The Cutting Room* (2013), were published in South Africa. Since then, Mary has shifted her focus from literary to genre fiction and has published two young adult fantasy books with Bloomsbury. Her fifth book, *Blood to Poison* (Bloomsbury), is out in April 2022 – and she is under contract for the sixth. Mary has participated in many festivals and events, from Edinburgh to Kenya.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Young Adult, Fantasy

**Contact**

**Instagram and Twitter:** @marym\_watson



**Landa wo**

Landa wo is an African–French author with roots in Cabinda, Angola. He is politically engaged and his work deals with prominent issues of social justice, discrimination and cultural strife. His previous and forthcoming publications include pieces in *Bellingham Review*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Colorado Review*, *Cyphers*, *Fiction International*, *Grain Magazine*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Missouri Review* and other journals and anthologies. He has won a number of awards including: the 2007 *Metro Eireann* Writing Competition, selected by Roddy Doyle; the Eist Poetry Competition; and Feile Filiochta International Poetry Competition. Landa wo’s poetry is included in the Irish Poetry Reading Archive at University College Dublin.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Spoken Word, Children’s Literature, Short Stories, Literary or Cultural Criticism

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @wo\_landa



**Sylvia Wohlfarth**

Half-Irish, half-Nigerian, Sylvia Wohlfarth was born in pre-independent Nigeria. She went to school in Ireland, lived in Germany for forty years and returned to live in Cork in 2017. She has an MA in social anthropology. She is an ESOL teacher for Syrian refugees and an intercultural dialogue facilitator. Expressing herself emotively through her poetry and creative non-fiction for over fifteen years, she raises awareness of social injustice and racism in her work. She has published essays and poems in the online publication *Our Human Family Weekly* and had a poem longlisted in the 2021 Frances Browne Literary Festival Poetry Competition. She is currently writing her parents’ biography, which also encompasses the entwined histories of Ireland and Nigeria dating back to the early Irish missionaries.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Non-Fiction, Short Stories, Biography and Life Writing

**Contact**

**Website:** sylviawohlfarth.medium.com/

**Twitter:** @SWohlfarth



**Samuel Yakura**

Samuel Yakura is a Nigerian-born writer, poet and performing artist residing in Ireland. He’s a multiple-time poetry slam champion, both in Nigeria and Ireland, winning competitions like ALS, OxFam and Talkatives. He is also a member of the WeAreGriot Poetry Collective based in Dublin. Samuel’s numerous commissions include pieces for Summer-in-the-city, Poetry Ireland, Dublin Fringe, the Adrian Brinkerhoff Foundation and the Gaisce Awards. His work reflects on the human condition, relationships and our interaction with society and culture. His most recent project is a Poetry Play themed ‘The Migration into each other’.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Spoken Word, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Instagram:** @sonofyakura



**Iva Yates**

Iva Yates was born in Puerto Rico and has been living in Ireland for seven years. She was educated at the University of Limerick, the University of York and Boston College. Iva started by writing creatively in Spanish, but also began to write in English when she moved to Ireland in 2014 to pursue a PhD in creative writing. She writes poetry, fiction, creative non-fiction and personal essays in both languages. Her work has been published in *The Ogham Stone*, *Silver Apples Magazine*, *The Corridor*, *Pendemic*, *Dark Horse* and *Contratiempo*. Iva was selected to be part the XBorders: Transition programme in 2018. She read her work at the Women XBorders events in 2019 and 2020. Iva is currently part of Write With, Joanna Walsh’s writing group.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction

**Contact**

**Twitter:** @ivayates



**Shannon Yee**

Shannon Yee is an award-winning writer and creative producer. Her perspectives as an immigrant, biracial, ethnic minority and queer artist–mother with a disability living in Northern Ireland are embedded in her work writing scripts and, more recently, short stories. *Reassembled*, *Slightly Askew* (www.reassembled.co.uk) sonically immerses audiences in her acquired brain injury journey and has received national and international acclaim. Her scripts and stories include: *Pandemic Parenting: Pandemonium* (BBC/The Space, 2021), *Downhill* (BBC Radio 4, 2022), ‘The Brightening Up Side’ (in *Belfast Stories*, Doire Press, 2019) and ‘Thumbnails’ (in *Queer Love: An Irish Anthology*, Southward Editions, 2020).

**Genre/Form**

Short Stories, Playwriting

**Contact**

**Website:** www.s-yee.co.uk

**Twitter:** @SYeeBfast



**Safa Zaiani**

Safa Zaiani is of Libyan origin and was raised in Ireland. She is a writer of romantic fiction and a poet, and was chosen to be a 2021 Irish Writers Centre/ Cúirt International Festival of Literature Young Writers Delegate. Safa started writing her first full book, *Worth It*, on Wattpad when she was sixteen and finished it just under four years later; to date it has had 41,000 reads. She has a BSc in Business Management and English Language, a PGCE in English and is currently undertaking an MA in English Literature. Safa has an eye for combining interesting details with a unique voice, as seen in her newest collection of poems, *Dripping in Gold*, which explores heartbreak, loss and rediscovering identity. She is working on a second poetry book.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Fiction, Short Stories, Romance

**Contact**

**Website:** [wattpad.com/user/](https://www.wattpad.com/user/MyThoughtsInWords)

**MyThoughtsInWords**



**Siraj Zaidi**

Siraj Zaidi is a professional actor who graduated from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, specialising in performing arts. After LAMDA, Siraj spent two years as a radio broadcaster for the BBC World Service. Since 1986, he has made Ireland his home, working as a writer in the theatre and for radio, TV and film. He has written TV documentary series for RTÉ, Ulster TV and TG4 which were broadcast in the 1990s, as well as several film scripts. He is a curator and director of the annual Indian Film Festival of Ireland ([www.Indianfilmfestivalofireland.ie](http://www.Indianfilmfestivalofireland.ie)). Siraj now wants to move into fiction and creative non-fiction. He has written several stories that reflect contemporary, multi-ethnic Ireland and is also working on his memoir.

**Genre/Form**

Fiction, Screenwriting

**Contact**

**Facebook:** [/siraj.zaidi.3](https://www.facebook.com/siraj.zaidi.3)

**Acting agent:** [info@nolanmuldoonagency.com](mailto:info@nolanmuldoonagency.com)



**Nidhi Zak/  
Aria Eipe**

Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe is a poet, pacifist and fabulist. Born in India, she grew up across the Middle East, Europe and North America before calling Ireland home. Founder of the Play It Forward Fellowships, she is poetry editor at Skein Press and Fallow Media, and contributing editor at *The Stinging Fly*. Nidhi serves on the advisory boards of Culture Ireland and Diversifying Irish Poetry. She has previously been commissioned to create work in celebration of Ulysses 100, Lá Fhéile Pádraig/St Patrick's Day 2021, Lá Fhéile Bríde/St Brigid's Day 2021, RTÉ's Illuminations 2020, Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture, and the Rio 2016 Olympic Truce. She has been a recipient of Arts Council of Ireland's Next Generation Artist Award, the Ireland Chair of Poetry Student Award and Jaipur Literature Festival's First Book Club Award. *Auguries of a Minor God*, her debut poetry collection, was published by Faber & Faber in 2021.

**Genre/Form**

Poetry, Non-Fiction

**Contact**

**Website:** [www.ariaeipe.com](http://www.ariaeipe.com)

# Breaking Ground Ireland Partners



## NUI Galway

Founded in 1845, NUI Galway has been inspiring students for over 175 years. The institution has earned international recognition as a research-led university with a commitment to top quality teaching.

**Dr Lindsay Ann Reid** is a Lecturer in English at NUI Galway, and Vice-Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies. She is based in the School of English and Creative Arts, which has an active and vibrant research culture that promotes textual and critical analysis, creative practice and the application of digital, philosophical and theoretical approaches to literature and the arts. Born in America and educated in Canada, she taught at a Turkish university before relocating to Ireland in 2013. Her primary research area is Renaissance literature; she is the author of *Shakespeare's Ovid and the Spectre of the Medieval* (2018) and *Ovidian Bibliofictions and the Tudor Book* (2014). Whilst Course Director for the MA in Literature and Publishing, she also developed a keen interest in the Irish publishing industry and issues of diversity and representation in the contemporary literary sphere.

[www.nuigalway.ie/](http://www.nuigalway.ie/)



## The Irish Research Council

The Irish Research Council (IRC) is an associate agency of the Department of Education and Skills in Ireland, under the aegis of the Higher Education Authority. The mission of the IRC is to support excellence in research talent, knowledge and engagement. The IRC: funds excellent research within, and between all disciplines; supports the education and skills development of researchers and thinkers; enriches the pool of knowledge and expertise available for addressing Ireland's current and future needs; and provides policy advice on postgraduate education. Its vision is for a connected, agile Irish Research Council that invests in the people, skills and ideas, across all disciplines, that will deliver new possibilities for the future, within Ireland and beyond.

[research.ie/](https://research.ie/)



## Breaking Ground Ireland Partners



### Cúirt International Festival of Literature

Cúirt International Festival of Literature is one of Europe's oldest book festivals, and a leading voice for literature, both internationally and across Ireland. Cúirt brings readers and writers together to tell stories, share new perspectives and to celebrate writing, books and reading in all forms. Through our festival every April and our year-round programme of engagement, we nurture a community of readers interested in the world, creating a space for conversation, debate and reflection.

**Sasha de Buyl** is the Director of Cúirt International Festival of Literature. She has worked for over ten years as a literature development professional in Scotland and, prior to Cúirt, managed Scottish Books International, was part of the Literature team at Creative Scotland and has held roles with StAnza International Poetry Festival and Edinburgh International Book Festival and managed the programme for Book Week Scotland at Scottish Book Trust. In 2021, she was selected as a *Bookseller* Rising Star. She is currently a board member of GAZE: Dublin's International LGBTQ Film Festival.

[www.cuirt.ie/](http://www.cuirt.ie/)



### The Irish Writers Centre

The Irish Writers Centre is the national resource organisation for writers on the island of Ireland. Since 1991, we have provided courses, information and resources to meet the needs of writers from all forms and genres. Our mission is to support, promote and inform writers at all stages of their development, through creative writing courses, membership, professional training, information, mentoring and networking. As a resource agency we connect writers through bespoke programmes, working collaboratively with strategic partners on a local, national and international level. We are committed to removing barriers to participation in literature, placing diversity, equality of opportunity and social inclusion at the heart of our strategy and programming.

[irishwriterscentre.ie/](http://irishwriterscentre.ie/)

**Ireland's literary culture has long been beloved and its significance recognised around the world. However, to ensure an equally bright future, we must continue to innovate, challenge and redefine what Irish literature means today.**

***Breaking Ground Ireland***

