



# The Forward Book of Poetry 2017

Published by Forward Worldwide with Faber & Faber,  
8 September 2016 (£8.99 paperback)

*“The Forward Prizes have turned a spotlight on contemporary poetry which is both searching and glamorous”*  
– Carol Ann Duffy

The Forward Book of Poetry 2017 showcases the best contemporary poems published in the British Isles and Ireland this year, including the poets shortlisted for 2016's Forward Prizes for Poetry. This anthology, for seasoned poetry lovers and new readers alike, is the 25th in a series that offers an invaluable annual overview of the current state of poetry.

The Forward Prizes for **Best Collection**, **Best First Collection** and **Best Single Poem** have grown to be the most prestigious awards for poetry published in Britain and Ireland annually. Their founder, William Sieghart, created the prizes – and this series of companion anthologies – to showcase contemporary poetry to both literary and non-literary audiences.

Today, the books are recognized widely as the best way into contemporary poetry: they are studied in schools and universities and are a must-read for all who want to sample work by the best living poets.

*“Merging established names with fresh new voices, the anthologies have demonstrated an uncanny ability to pick out the poetic stars of tomorrow. Each of the poets here is on the frontline of change, contributing strong powers of observation and expression to the endless re-drafting of the language.”*

– William Sieghart CBE founder of the Forward Arts Foundation

With a foreword by Malika Booker, who chairs the 2016 Forward Prizes jury, the anthology's publication comes on the eve of the Forward Prizes for Poetry winner ceremony at a special event at the Royal Festival Hall on Tuesday 20 September, featuring readings from all the shortlisted books.

## The Forward Prizes for Poetry 2016 shortlist in full:

**The Forward Prize for Best Collection (£15,000)**  
Vahni Capildeo – *Measures of Expatriation* (Carcenet)  
Ian Duhig – *The Blind Roadmaker* (Picador Poetry)  
Choman Hardi – *Considering the Women* (Bloodaxe Books)  
Alice Oswald – *Falling Awake* (Cape Poetry)  
Denise Riley – *Say Something Back* (Picador Poetry)

**The Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection (£5,000)**

Nancy Campbell – *Disko Bay* (Enitharmon Press)  
Ron Carey – *Distance* (Revival Press)  
Harry Giles – *Tonguit* (Freight Books)  
Ruby Robinson – *Every Little Sound* (Liverpool University Press)  
Tiphonie Yanique – *Wife* (Peepal Tree Press)

**The Forward Prize for Best Single Poem (£1,000)**

Sasha Dugdale – ‘Joy’ (PN Review)  
David Harsent – ‘from Salt’ (Poetry London)  
Solmaz Sharif – ‘Force Visibility’ (Granta Magazine)  
Melissa Lee-Houghton – ‘i am very precious’ (Prac Crit)  
Rachel Hadas – ‘Roosevelt Hospital Blues’ (Times Literary Supplement)

Tickets for the awards ceremony and readings can be found at:

[www.southbankcentre.co.uk/literature](http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/literature)

For further information, visit [www.forwardartsfoundation.org](http://www.forwardartsfoundation.org) or join the conversation at @forwardprizes #forwardprizes.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

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**Notes to editors**

1. The Forward Prizes, now in their 25th year, are among the most sought after accolades in the UK and Ireland for both established and emerging poets. With a total value of £21,000, the prizes are divided into three categories: The Forward Prize for Best Collection (£15,000), The Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection (£5,000) and the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem (£1,000)

2. Biographies of the shortlisted poets and samples of their work can be found on [www.forwardartsfoundation.org/forward-prizes-for-poetry](http://www.forwardartsfoundation.org/forward-prizes-for-poetry)

3. Past winners of the Forward Prize for Best Collection are: Claudia Rankine *Citizen: An American Lyric* (Penguin) 2015, Kei Miller *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion* (Carcenet) 2014, Michael Symmons *Roberts Drysalter* (Cape Poetry) 2013, Jorie Graham *PLACE* (Carcenet) 2012, John Burnside *Black Cat Bone* (Cape Poetry) 2011, Seamus Heaney *Human Chain* (Faber and Faber) 2010, Don Paterson *Rain* (Faber and Faber) 2009, Mick Imlah *The Lost Leader* (Faber and Faber) 2008, Sean O'Brien *The Drowned Book* (Picador Poetry) 2007, Robin Robertson *Swithering* (Cape Poetry) 2006, David Harsent *Legion* (Faber and Faber) 2005, Kathleen Jamie *The Tree House* (Picador Poetry) 2004, Ciaran Carson *Breaking News* (Gallery Press) 2003, Peter Porter *Max is Missing* (Picador Poetry) 2002, Sean O'Brien *Downriver* (Picador Poetry) 2001, Michael Donaghy *Conjure* (Picador Poetry) 2000, Jo Shapcott *My Life Asleep* (OUP) 1999, Ted Hughes *Birthday Letters* (Faber and Faber) 1998, Jamie McKendrick *The Marble Fly* (OUP) 1997, John Fuller *Stones and Fires* (Chatto) 1996, Sean O'Brien *Ghost Train* (OUP) 1995, Alan Jenkins *Harm* (Chatto) 1994, Carol Ann Duffy *Mean Time* (Anvil Press) 1993 and Thom Gunn *The Man with Night Sweats* (Faber and Faber) 1992.

4. Forward Arts Foundation, which runs the Forward Prizes for Poetry and National Poetry Day, is an arts charity that celebrates excellence in poetry and widens its audience by encouraging the enjoyment, discovery and sharing of poems. Support for its activities is generously provided by Forward Worldwide, Arts Council England, the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, the Monument Trust and the Rothschild Foundation. Find it at [www.forwardartsfoundation.org](http://www.forwardartsfoundation.org) and @forwardprizes and @poetrydayuk.

5. The Forward Prizes have been sponsored since their inception by Forward Worldwide, a global content marketing agency based in London and Shanghai, creating and delivering best-in-class omni-channel content strategies (digital and print) for blue-chip brands. Clients include Patek Philippe, Tesco, American Express, Fabric, Standard Life, Virgin Atlantic, Singapore Airlines and Lufthansa. [www.forwardww.com](http://www.forwardww.com)

6. To celebrate 25 years of the Forward Prizes and publications, the Forward Arts Foundation is publishing **100 Prized Poems: Twenty-five years of the Forward Books (Forward Worldwide with Faber & Faber, RRP £9.99)**. Chosen by William Sieghart, *100 Prized Poems* brings together the best of the poems published over a quarter century in twenty-five editions of the Forward books of poetry, a series highlighting the works commended annually for the prestigious Forward Prizes. The roll-call of poets included is a Who's Who of poetry excellence and includes both familiar names – Simon Armitage, Jackie Kay, Derek Walcott - and fresh voices – Kate Tempest, Kei Miller and Luke Wright. This anthology of anthologies is a great way of encountering the richness that new poetry has to offer.