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The Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry 2011



**TED HUGHES
AWARD FOR
NEW WORK
IN POETRY**

Crow © Estate of Leonard Baskin

Accepting recommendations, judges announced



"In order to thrive, poetry must always be open to the world it inhabits. This means that it's vital for poets to engage with other art forms. A poet can learn as much about their craft from closely examining the work of other artists as they can from poetry itself."

– **Sarah Maguire**, judge of the Ted Hughes Award 2011

Established in 2009 by **Carol Ann Duffy**, the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry brings into focus the many ways in which poets are engaging with other art forms.

Alongside the many and varied collections published each year, poets create an extraordinary range of work for contexts beyond the page. Already in 2011 there has been a verse play which takes a contemporary look at the Mystery Plays, an aural version of the camera obscura at Manchester's Piccadilly Station, poems carved into paving and streets in Leeds' oldest district and a drama documentary about the murder of Sophie Lancaster, a young gap year student, told through a series of poignant poems.

Last year's winner of the award, **Kaite O'Reilly**, agrees that this "vitality and breadth of work" is something to be celebrated; and what better way than through "this innovative award, associated with two astonishing Poet Laureates, to celebrate the verve and vibrancy of poetry".

In order to consider the fullest sweep of new poetry produced each year, the Ted Hughes Award invites members of the Poetry Society, and/or the Poetry Book Society, to recommend a living UK poet, working in any form, who they feel has made the most exciting contribution to poetry. Examples of some projects, in a range of media, that have taken place this year, can be found at <http://tiny.cc/zhb97>

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For further information

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Members have until 6 January 2012 to make their recommendations for judges **Edmund de Waal**, **Sarah Maguire** and **Michael Symmons Roberts** to consider. The £5,000 prize is donated by **Carol Ann Duffy**, funded from the annual honorarium the Poet Laureate traditionally receives from HM The Queen.

The winner of the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry 2011 will be announced along with the winner of the National Poetry Competition on Wednesday 28 March 2012.

– ENDS –

**To find out more and/or to interview any of the judges, please contact Alan Ward
on 020 7420 9886 or email award@poetrysociety.org.uk**

Notes to Editors:

• Ted Hughes Award judges



Edmund de Waal was apprenticed to a potter in Canterbury, studied in Japan and then read English at Cambridge. His porcelain is in thirty international collections: most recently he has created major installations for the V&A and Tate Britain. He is working on exhibitions for museums in the UK and America and on commissions for private clients. De Waal has also written widely on art and ceramics. His book, *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, won the Costa Award for Biography in 2010 and the Ondaatje prize.



Sarah Maguire has published four highly-acclaimed collections of poetry: *Spilt Milk*, *The Invisible Mender*, *The Florists at Midnight* and *The Pomegranates of Kandahar* (a Poetry Book Society Choice and shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize, 2007). Maguire also edited the innovative and popular anthology *Flora Poetica: The Chatto Book of Botanical Verse*. Maguire has been active in translating contemporary Arabic poetry into English and co-translated *A Thousand Rooms of Dream and Fear* by Atiq Rahimi. She is the founder and director of the Poetry Translation Centre. In June 2008, Maguire received a prestigious Cholmondeley Award.



Michael Symmons Roberts' poetry collections are: *Soft Keys* (1993); *Raising Sparks* (1999); *Burning Babylon* (2001, shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize), *Corpus* (2004), a collection of poems focused on the body that won the 2004 Whitbread Poetry Award and was shortlisted for the Forward Poetry Prize (Best Poetry Collection of the Year) and the T S Eliot Prize, and *The Half-Healed* (2008). Apart from his work as a poet, Symmons Roberts is a novelist, and a librettist working extensively with composer James Macmillan on operas, song cycles and choral works. He is also an award-winning maker of documentaries for television and radio.

• **Past winners of the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry** are: Alice Oswald in 2009 with *Weeds and Wildflowers* and Kaite O'Reilly in 2010 with her translation of Aeschylus' *The Persians*.

• **Recommendations for Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry 2011:** Members of the Poetry Society and Poetry Book Society are invited to recommend poets for the Award. The recommendations are then judged by a panel of three judges appointed by the Poet Laureate.

• **The logo for the Ted Hughes Award** was designed by David Carroll of David Carroll & Co (www.davidcarrollandco.com) and uses the iconic image of Crow by Leonard Baskin. The image was used originally on the cover of *Crow: From the Life and Songs of the Crow* by Ted Hughes (Faber & Faber, 1970) and is reproduced by kind permission of Lisa Baskin and the Estate of Leonard Baskin, © Estate of Leonard Baskin.

• **The Poetry Society** was founded in 1909 to promote a "more general recognition and appreciation of poetry". Since then, it has grown into one of Britain's most dynamic arts organisations, representing British poetry both nationally and internationally. Today it has nearly 4,000 members worldwide and publishes the leading poetry magazine, *Poetry Review*. With innovative education and commissioning programmes and a packed calendar of performances, readings and competitions, the Poetry Society champions poetry for all ages.

• **Poetry Society awards and competitions:** The Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry is awarded to a living UK poet, working in any form, who has made the most exciting contribution to poetry. The Poetry Society has run the National Poetry Competition since 1978. It is one of the world's longest running and most prestigious prizes for an individual poem and has been won by poets such as Carol Ann Duffy, Tony Harrison and Ruth Padel. The Society also organises the influential Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award for poets aged 11-17, and performance poetry championship, SLAMBassadors UK as well as The Corneliu M Popescu Prize 2011 for Poetry Translated from a European Language into English.

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