

1 March 2012 *For immediate release*

The Poetry Society announces the shortlist for the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry



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

Crow © Estate of Leonard Baskin

The Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry seeks to recognise excellence in poetry, highlighting outstanding contributions made by poets to our cultural life. Established in 2009 by **Carol Ann Duffy**, the £5,000 prize is funded with the annual honorarium the Poet Laureate traditionally receives from HM The Queen.

The award is one of the only prizes to acknowledge the wide range of collaborative work being produced by poets – not just in books, but beyond.

“The recommendations demonstrated just how engaged and engaging contemporary poetry is in Britain. We saw striking and original collaborations with photographers, composers, producers, painters and sculptors. Although we could have listed more, the entries that made the shortlist all show how poetry can transform (and be transformed by) other arts to produce new and remarkable work.” – Michael Symmons Roberts, judge.

Michael Symmons Roberts and fellow judges of this year’s award **Edmund de Waal** and **Sarah Maguire** have shortlisted the following six poets for work that appeared in 2011:

Simon Armitage for *Black Roses: The Killing of Sophie Lancaster*

A drama documentary for BBC Radio 4, this is an elegy to the 20-year-old student who was attacked whilst attempting to protect her boyfriend from a group of violent youths. Four years after her death, Sophie’s story is told through poems by Simon Armitage, and an interview with her mother, Sylvia Lancaster. Produced by Sue Roberts.

Julia Copus for *Ghost Lines*

A personal testimony of IVF treatment and failed pregnancy by Julia Copus in poems and prose, written especially for this BBC Radio 3 programme. Poems read by actress Hattie Morahan with music composed by Jacob Shirley. Produced by John Taylor/Fiction Factory.

Continues over

For further information

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Page 1 of 3

Robert Crawford for *Simonides*

Translations of the ancient Greek poet, on death, loss and remembrance, accompanied by photographs by Norman McBeath. The project is also the subject of a 2011 exhibition. Commissioned by the University of St Andrews as part of its 600th Anniversary.

Lavinia Greenlaw for *Audio Obscura*

A 'sound experience' that saw its audience don headphones amongst the bustle of London St Pancras and Manchester Piccadilly train stations to listen in on individual narratives. Commissioned and produced by Artangel and Manchester International Festival.

Andrew Motion for *Laurels and Donkeys*

A BBC Radio 4 programme produced by Tim Dee featuring a sequence of dramatic war poems to mark Remembrance Day.

Christopher Reid for *Airs and Ditties of No Man's Land*

An orchestral piece set in the First World War, first performed as part of the BBC Proms and broadcast on BBC Radio 3. Music composed by Colin Matthews.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Andrew Motion (PHOTO: JOHNNY RING); Julia Copus; Christopher Reid (PHOTO: JEMIMAH KUHFELD)
Robert Crawford (PHOTO: NORMAN M'BEATH); Simon Armitage (PHOTO: PAUL WOLFGANG WEBSTER); Lavinia Greenlaw

The winner will be announced at the Savile Club on the evening of Wednesday 28 March 2012, along with the winners of the National Poetry Competition.

– ENDS –

For more information contact

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Notes to Editors:

TED HUGHES AWARD 2011 JUDGES

Edmund de Waal



Edmund de Waal has porcelain in thirty international collections and has created major installations for the V&A and Tate Britain. His latest book, *The Hare with Amber Eyes*, won the Costa Award for Biography in 2010 and the Ondaatje prize.

Sarah Maguire



Sarah Maguire has published four highly acclaimed collections of poetry including *The Pomegranates of Kandahar*, shortlisted for the 2007 T.S. Eliot Prize. She is the founder and director of the Poetry Translation Centre and received a Cholmondeley Award in June 2008.

Michael Symmons Roberts



Michael Symmons Roberts' poetry collections include *Corpus* (2004), which won the 2004 Whitbread Poetry Award and was shortlisted for the Forward Poetry Prize and the T.S. Eliot Prize. He is also an award-winning maker of documentaries for television and radio.

PREVIOUS WINNERS OF THE TED HUGHES AWARD FOR NEW WORK IN POETRY

- 2010 Kaite O'Reilly for her verse translation of Aeschylus' *The Persians* (National Theatre Wales production).
- 2009 Alice Oswald for her book *Weeds and Wild Flowers* (Faber & Faber) with accompanying etchings by Jessica Greenman.

• **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:** In addition to the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry, the Poetry Society runs the National Poetry Competition, one of the world's longest-running and most prestigious prizes for an individual poem. The Poetry Society also organises the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award for poets aged 11-17, the young people's performance poetry championship SLAMBassadors UK and the Corneliu M Popescu Prize, for poetry translated from a European language into English.

• **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.

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