

18 September 2012 *For immediate release*

The Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry 2012

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

Crow © Estate of Leonard Baskin

*Judges Maura Dooley, Ian Duhig and
Cornelia Parker invite recommendations*



"It's exciting to be announcing the fourth Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry, an award which seems to have brought a freshness to the poetry year and which has already highlighted the fantastic ways in which poets are continuing to inventively deploy their work."

– **Carol Ann Duffy**, Poet Laureate and founder of the Ted Hughes Award

Established in 2009, the award highlights the ways in which poets engage with other art forms. In order to reflect the collaborative nature of the award, the judging panel comprises artists from a range of backgrounds: this year, poets Maura Dooley and Ian Duhig team up with artist Cornelia Parker.

The award seeks to reward poetry in books and beyond – on the stage, on the radio, on film and TV, in art galleries and around us in the built environment. Previous winners of the £5,000 prize include Lavinia Greenlaw in 2011 for *Audio Obscura*, a sound work; the playwright Kaite O'Reilly for her 2010 verse translation of *The Persians*; and, in 2009, Alice Oswald for her illustrated collection *Weeds and Wildflowers*.

The award recognises the importance of cross art form collaboration. Lavinia Greenlaw worked closely with sound engineer Tim Barker and composer Harry Escott to create *Audio Obscura*. "Working with sound rather than the page sharpened everything; I spent hours thinking about the minutiae of dynamics and timing and the layers of response we have to what we hear or half hear," Greenlaw commented.

In order to consider the full sweep of new poetry, the Ted Hughes Award invites members of the Poetry Society, and / or Poetry Book Society, to recommend a living UK poet, working in any form, who they feel has made an outstanding contribution to poetry in 2012.

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For further information

Telephone Alan Ward on 020 7420 9886
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Recommendation forms are available to members from the Poetry Society website: www.poetrysociety.org.uk. A range of work is showcased on a dedicated 'New Work' page, which aims to demonstrate the scope of work recognised by the award.

– ENDS –

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

Notes to Editors:

• Ted Hughes Award judges



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Maura Dooley's most recent collection of poetry is *Life Under Water* (Bloodaxe 2008). She has edited anthologies of verse and essays, amongst them *The Honey Gatherers: Love Poems* (Bloodaxe 2003) and *How Novelists Work* (Seren 2000). She has worked with new writers consistently, with the Arvon Foundation, Performing Arts Labs, the Southbank Centre, Jim Henson Film and currently Goldsmiths College, University of London. She has twice been shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.



Ian Duhig has written six books of poetry, most recently *Pandorama* (Picador, 2010). He has also worked with artists, historians, film makers and homeless people as well as a range of musicians, from the pre-baroque consort The Clerks to the contemporary avant-garde composer Christopher Fox. He is particularly looking forward to seeing innovative ways of using poetry among recommendations for the Ted Hughes Award. He has won a Forward Prize, the National Poetry Competition twice and three times been shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize.



Cornelia Parker received an OBE and was elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 2010. She was nominated for the Turner Prize in 1997. A major publication on her work will be published by Thames & Hudson in 2013. Recent solo exhibitions include *Thirty Pieces of Silver*, at York St Mary's (in association with Tate) in 2011, and *Doubtful Sound*, at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art in 2010. Locations of forthcoming solo exhibitions include the Frith Street Gallery, London, in 2013 and the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, in 2014.

- **Winners of the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry:** Alice Oswald in 2009 for *Weeds and Wildflowers*, Kaitie O'Reilly in 2010 with her translation of Aeschylus's *The Persians*, and Lavinia Greenlaw in 2011 with her sound work *Audio Obscura*.
- **Recommendations for the Ted Hughes Award for New Work in Poetry 2012:** Members of the Poetry Society and / or Poetry Book Society are invited to recommend poets for the award. Recommendations are judged by the panel appointed by the Poet Laureate, with a shortlist announced prior to the announcement of the winner in March 2013.
- **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.

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