

LANDSCAPES OF CHANGE

Our Spring / Summer season of events at Manchester Poetry Library explores the impact of the Climate Emergency and much more.



Spring | Summer 2024

WELCOME TO OUR SPRING/SUMMER SEASON HERE AT MANCHESTER POETRY LIBRARY.

We are excited to host *Landscapes of Change*, our season centrepiece, which brings together poetry and science to explore the impact of the climate emergency, with a stunning exhibition and events series from the team of scientists, Kathryn Adamson and Iestyn Barr and poet, Professor Helen Mort.

Our panel event, *The Great Waking Up!* continues the theme, bringing key climate change writers' groups together for the first time to discuss the literary world's response to the climate emergency – and why writers need to be awake and active in this current crisis.

This season, we're also thrilled to be launching Jos Charles' new poetry collection, *a Year & Other Poems*, described by Kaveh Akbar as 'a masterpiece,' as part of her residency with us – and to host an exceptional poetry reading series with prize-winning poets Jason Allen-Paisant, Liz Berry and Luke Kennard.

The launch of *Out of Sri Lanka*, the first-ever anthology of Sri Lankan and diasporic poetry, promises to bring to light long-neglected national literature for an evening that is set to reshape our understanding of migrational poetics and the poetics of atrocity.

We will celebrate both the cultures and heritage of BSL as part of *Manchester British Sign Language Festival 2024*, featuring a performance by the first BSL Poet Laureate, Kabir Kapoor. We'll also play host to *The Kylie Minogue (Poetry) Olympics* - an open mic of wonder in honour of 'poetic' spoken word renditions of classic song lyrics.

Join us later in the season for the *Poets of Colour Incubator Scratch Performance* of 'poetic responses' to global challenges, and a showcase of artwork from the *It Started with a Seed International Storytelling Festival (IS WAS)*, which in its inaugural year will share five unique new art commissions by current students and alumni, inspired by Manchester Met at 200.

If you'd like to get more involved with the day-to-day life of Manchester Poetry Library, you can find out more from our website and social media channels for regular events, reading groups, poetry drop-ins and more.

Becky Swain

Director of Manchester Poetry Library

Visit Us

Manchester Poetry Library is the first public poetry library in the North West – a welcoming public space for anyone interested in or curious about poetry. Open to all, we are based in the Grosvenor East building at Manchester Metropolitan University, just off Oxford Road.

Manchester Poetry Library

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Opening Hours

Monday	10am – 4.30pm
Tuesday	10am – 7pm
Wednesday	10am – 7pm
Thursday	10am – 4.30pm
Friday	10am – 4.30pm
Saturday	11am – 5pm
Sunday	Closed
Bank Holidays	Closed

mmu.ac.uk/poetry-library

21 March – 25 April

Lost Wor(1)ds – Intersemiotic Translations by Peter Constantine

When a language dies, it takes with it more than just words. With it disappear millennia of culture, knowledge, and tradition. Its unique interpretation of the world unravels and dies. UNESCO warns us that 90 to 95 percent of our world's languages will die by the end of this century.

Join us for an exhibition of artworks created by literary translator and editor Peter Constantine, as he attempts to reach into and fathom a word and hieroglyph lost forever. Alongside Constantine's work are poetry broadside prints designed by our MA Publishing students, which are translations of Greek poetry created in our collaborative public translation workshop.



Part of the second annual Manchester Translation Series at the Manchester Poetry Library, hosted by Manchester Writing School at Manchester Metropolitan University.

17 April | 5 – 7pm (in-person & online)

The Great Waking Up! The Writing World Responds to the Climate Emergency

Amitav Ghosh's *The Great Derangement* (2015) said that writers were asleep with regards to climate change, that there had been a great apathy from publishers too. Not enough writers were writing about this oncoming catastrophe and any book attempting the subject simply fell into sci-fi or horror as a genre. Today, just a decade later, the opposite is true. There has been a 'great waking up' in the literary world around climate change.

Monique Roffey, writer and Professor at Manchester Metropolitan University's Writing School (co-founder of Writers Rebel and Ambassador for Just Stop Oil) chairs a unique panel of key climate change writers' groups brought together for the first time. We'll talk about why writers need to be awake and active in this current crisis, and what impact literary activism can make.. What can writers now do? How can we unite to face the coming changes in our climate?

Panellists include James Miller of *Writers Rebel*, Chris Redmond of *Tongue Fu* and *Hot Poets*, Leena Norms of the *No Books on a Dead Planet* podcast and Jacqueline Saphra of *Poets for the Planet*.

Hosted by the Centre of Migration and Postcolonial Studies (MAPS), Manchester Metropolitan University.

POET IN RESIDENCE

18 April | 6 – 8pm

Jos Charles

Poet, writer, translator and intertextual artist, Jos Charles, is taking up a week-long international residency at Manchester Poetry Library.

As part of this, we are thrilled to be launching Jos Charles' new poetry collection, *a Year & other poems*, published by Broken Sleep Books and described by Kaveh Akbar as 'a masterpiece'. Jos will read from the collection and be in conversation with Manchester Metropolitan University's Professor of Contemporary Writing, Andrew McMillan.

Jos Charles is author of the poetry collections *a Year & other poems* (Milkweed Editions, 2022), *feeld*, a Pulitzer-finalist and winner of the 2017 National Poetry Series selected by Fady Joudah (Milkweed Editions, 2018), and *Safe Space* (Ahsahta Press, 2016).



24 April | 3 – 5pm

**BSL Heritage:
Poetry and Histories of
British Sign Language**

Join us to celebrate the cultures and heritage of BSL as part of Manchester British Sign Language Festival 2024. Come to find out more about BSL or share your thoughts about a future BSL poetry collection at Manchester Poetry Library.

The event features a performance by the first BSL Poet Laureate, Kabir Kapoor, who will be performing his signed poetry, which can be enjoyed by everyone; and presentations on '1792 and the Boom of Modern BSL' (Peter Brown, City of Literature) and the 'Early Histories of Sign Language in the UK' (Manchester Met's Rosamund Oates).



This event will be in British Sign Language and English, with interpreters for both. Wheelchair accessible and refreshments available. For other access requirements, please contact poetrylibrary@mmu.ac.uk or call 0161 247 6106 and we'll be happy to support you.

Supported by the British Academy and Race, Genders and Sexualities Research Group, Manchester Metropolitan University.

1 May | 6 – 7.30pm (in-person & online)

**Out of Sri Lanka:
The Poetry of Witness**

Sri Lanka has thrilled the foreign imagination as a land of infinite possibility. This idyllic image is at odds with the social reality of a 26-year civil war that ended in 2009, a history of war crimes and a legacy of governmental corruption that has led the country into economic and social crisis.



Out of Sri Lanka, the first ever anthology of Sri Lankan and diasporic poetry, features over a hundred poets writing in English, or translated from Tamil and Sinhala. It brings to light a long-neglected national literature and reshapes our understanding of migrational poetics and the poetics of atrocity. Poets long out of print appear beside exciting new talents; works written in the country converse with poetry from the UK, the US, Canada and Australia.

We are delighted to present the three editors, Vidyan Ravinthiran, Seni Seneviratne and Shash Trevett – all poets and contributors to the volume. They will read from their work and discuss the challenges of creating an anthology that represents the divided nation and the politics of remembrance with Minoli Salgado.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase on the day alongside a drinks reception.



POETRY READING SERIES

7 May | 6 – 7pm

Jason Allen-Paisant

Jason Allen-Paisant is a Jamaican writer and academic who works as a Senior Lecturer in Critical Theory and Creative Writing at the University of Manchester. He is the author of two poetry collections, *Thinking with Trees* (Carcanet Press, 2021), winner of the 2022 OCM Bocas Prize for poetry, and *Self-Portrait as Othello* (Carcanet Press, 2023), winner of the 2023 T.S. Eliot Prize.



20 June | 6 – 7pm

Luke Kennard

Luke Kennard is an award-winning British poet, critic, novelist and Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Birmingham. In 2005, he won an Eric Gregory Award for his first collection *The Solex Brothers*. His second collection, *The Harbour Beyond The Movie*, was shortlisted for the 2007 Forward Prize for Best Collection. In 2014, he was named as one of the Poetry Book Society's Next Generation Poets. His debut novel, *The Transition*, was published by Fourth Estate in 2017; his second novel, *The Answer to Everything*, was published in 2021 – and his poetry collection, *Notes on the Sonnets*, won the 2021 Forward Prize for Best Collection.

Luke will be reading from a selection of his poetry, followed by a conversation on poetry and writing with Nikolai Duffy.

16 May | 6 – 7pm

Liz Berry

Liz Berry is an award-winning poet and author of the critically acclaimed collections *Black Country* (Chatto, 2014); *The Republic of Motherhood* (Chatto, 2018); *The Dereliction* (Hercules Editions, 2021), a collaboration with artist Tom Hicks; and most recently *The Home Child* (Chatto, 2023), a novel in verse. Liz has received the Somerset Maugham Award, Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize and Forward Prizes.

Liz will read from a selection of poetry, followed by a Q&A.

LANDSCAPES OF CHANGE

5 June - 31 August

Landscapes of Change brings together poetry and science to explore how the impact of the climate emergency is making itself known. The exhibition features films, poetry across multiple languages and special activities for children.

In September 2023, scientists Kathryn Adamson and Iestyn Barr and poet Helen Mort visited Narsaq, South Greenland to undertake scientific research and to work with the local community. In Greenland, climate warming is resulting in the melting of glaciers, thawing of permafrost, sea level rise, coastal erosion, and decreased sea ice thickness; with major human, landscape, wildlife, and economic impacts.

As well as examining these changes scientifically, the project aimed to start a dialogue with members of the community whose lives are changing rapidly.

The exhibition preview will include contributions from the team behind the research, along with a reveal of a limited-edition hand-printed poetry broadside co-created with Manchester Met students and staff for the occasion.

4 June | 5.30 – 7.30pm
Preview

Join us to celebrate the opening of the exhibition. Our preview event will include contributions from the team behind the research, along with a reveal of a limited edition, hand-printed poetry broadside co-created with Manchester Met students and staff for the occasion.

15 June | 11am – 4pm
Family Day

Join poet Helen Mort for a special drop-in session for families as part of Manchester Festival of Libraries. Families will have the opportunity to create new poems bringing together poetry and science, by responding to the exhibition.



Landscapes of Change is supported by NERC Arctic Office.

The glaciologists revise their expectations.
 A sea eagle revises the body of a small white dog.
 Three fishermen revise their lines. The sea
 revises its temperature which revises
 the passage of rain-into-ice which (in turn,
 gently) revises the progress of seals. An avalanche
 revises all it touches. A mother's touch revises
 the dream of a lightly-sleeping child.
 A touch from a gun revises the heart
 of a polar bear - bang - on the outskirts of town.
 Winter revises summer. Rain revises rain. In the bar,
 we revise each other without shared language.
 The mist revises Narsaq mountain. I like to think
 the fish revise the hook. The earth revises
 for a test where there are no known answers,
 writing its paper in sediment, in clay
 in the dead centre of a lake.

T O U R I S T

In the shop, they sell candles, guns
 and a picture of the Virgin Mary.
 The houses are apricot-and-lemon,
 forest green, every blue
 suggested by the moods of water.

It will rain tomorrow
 and you will gather
 all you've left undone
 walk aimlessly along the shore
 harvesting old griefs.

In the turf house, there was a picture
 of Marilyn Monroe on the far wall,
 the ice-twinkle of her left eye.

By the water, a clump of polystyrene
 from the tip at the edge of town
 cheerfully mimicking a berg,

all pale spikes and white crowns.
 Your heart breaks for it,
 so obnoxious, trying so hard
 to integrate itself.

17 June – 1 July

IS WAS Exhibition

The It Started with a Seed International Storytelling Festival (IS WAS) launches this year, a collaborative effort between our Arts and Humanities faculty, Manchester Poetry Library, and Manchester Histories. We'll be exhibiting the work of five artists inspired by Manchester Met's 200th anniversary, all of whom are current students or alumni. The commissioned works will also be featured at Manchester Central Library as part of the Manchester Histories Festival 2024.

22 June | 7 – 8.30pm

Poets of Colour Incubator –
 Scratch Performances and
 Showcase

Save the date to join us for the Scratch Performance of ideas in development from poets Princess Arinola Adegbite, Jeremy Pak Nelson and Ilisha Thiru Purcell.

Poets of Colour Incubator is a 12-month mentoring, change agency and creative development programme for three talented poets to innovate their practice and create a 'poetic response' to a global challenge they want to interrogate. The Incubator is a collaboration between Words of Colour and Manchester Poetry Library.

Save the date for the final showcase at Contact Theatre on 12 September 7pm – 8.30pm.

Incubator partners include Manchester Poetry Library, Words of Colour, Contact, Manchester UNESCO City of Literature and New Writing North. The Poets of Colour Incubator is funded by Arts Council England's National Lottery Project Grants programme.

Through July | August

Work produced by children and young people involved in Poetry Library Learning projects will be exhibited throughout the summer. This includes poetry on 'Re-Wilding Words' by pupils from 8 schools who worked on our Comino Poet in Residence project, our *Mother Tongue Other Tongue* multi-lingual poetry competition winners (8-18) and creative work produced by our (13-16) Saturday Club. We are also one of the stop-offs on the city's *Blue Peter Book Club* trail, so please pay us a visit.

Get Involved

If you'd like to get more involved with the day-to-day life of Manchester Poetry Library, check our website and social media channels for regular events, reading groups, poetry drop-ins and more.

Creative Coaching

Do you have a project or idea you'd love to talk through? Do you have a poem you don't know what to do with? Come to one of our drop-in sessions every Tuesday, 2 – 4.30pm.

Reading and Writing Workshops

If you are a community reading group or writing group, or can offer a workshop series connected to poetry, we can offer space to host your workshops on Wednesday evenings. We only offer the space for a 6-week residency. Email r.havers@mmu.ac.uk to discuss.

Poetry Reading Group

We run a lunchtime reading group for staff and freelancers working in the area, who'd like to read more poetry or just have a well-needed break from work. The group runs 12pm-1pm every Thursday – just show up.

Special Events

A year-round programme of poetry events and opportunities for professional development is listed on our What's On and Current Projects webpages. Check our website or subscribe to our e-newsletter to stay up to date.

Resources to Introduce Poetry Writing

A range of web-based and printed poetry resources to support those working with children and young people, and resources for writers.

Poetry Library Tours

Available upon request. Please email r.havers@mmu.ac.uk or enquire at the Poetry Library Welcome Desk.

Supporting Schools

Details of our offer for schools can be found on the Learning web page.

Suggest Poetry for
 our Collection

Our Poetry Library team is happy to help you learn how to explore our collection. If we don't have what you are looking for, please share your recommendations with us.

The

Olympics

28 May | 6 – 8pm

The Kylie Minogue (Poetry) Olympics

7th July 1996. Everyone remembers where they were when it happened. Kylie Minogue, the Poetry Olympics, *I Should Be So Lucky* – need we say more?

Yes? Oh. Well then: some 28 years ago, after being introduced by friend, fan, collaborator and countryman Nick Cave, Kylie Minogue took to the Royal Albert Hall stage in front of poetry's brightest lights (including John Cooper Clarke, Simon Armitage and Carol Ann Duffy) to deliver a wonderfully 'poetic' spoken-word rendition of *I Should Be So Lucky* – and it's fair to say the poetry world has never been quite the same since.

This year, to celebrate Kylie's birthday, we'll be hosting The Kylie Minogue (Poetry) Olympics, an open mic in the truest sense of the word. We want you to interpret Kylie's words / music / existence in whatever way you see fit, be it poetry, music, dance, performances... all are welcome at the Kylie Olympics. Just keep the set-up simple, please – we're poets, not engineers, after all.

To express your interest (or for any other queries), please email j.fedrick@mmu.ac.uk.

Padam.

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