

Manchester Writing Competition



2015 Manchester Poetry Prize short list



Tess Barry has been writing poetry since childhood and holds an MA in English from the University of Pittsburgh and an MFA in Creative Writing/Poetry from Carlow University (a dual-residency programme in the US and Ireland). She has twice been a finalist for North American Review's James Hearst Poetry Prize and Aesthetica's Poetry Award, and was shortlisted for the 2014 Bridport Poetry Prize. Her poems appear in Mudfish, North American Review, and Aesthetica's Creative Writing 2015 Annual. She is native of Western Pennsylvania and teaches literature and creative writing at Robert Morris University in

Pittsburgh.



Kierstin Bridger is a Colorado writer. She is a winner of the Mark Fischer Poetry Prize, and the 2015 ACC Writer's Studio Prize. She is editor of Ridgway Alley Poems, Co-Director of Open Bard Poetry Series, and contributing writer for Telluride Inside Out. Her poetry also appears in Thrush Poetry Journal, Blast Furnace, The Hawaii Review, Pilgrimage, Tulane Review, Fugue, and several anthologies. She earned her MFA at Pacific University.



Cath Drake is an Australian from Perth who lives in London. She has been published in anthologies and literary magazines in the UK, Australia and the US. In 2012, she was short-listed for the Venture Poetry Award, awarded an Arts Council England grant and was writer in residence at the Albany Arts Centre café. Cath's pamphlet *Sleeping with Rivers* (Seren Books) won the 2013 Mslexia/Seren poetry pamphlet prize and was the Poetry Book Society summer choice 2014. She was included in *Best Australian Poetry 2014* anthology (Black Inc books).



Linda France is based close to Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. Since 1992, she has published seven poetry collections with Bloodaxe, Smokestack and Arc, including *The Gentleness of the Very Tall*, *The Toast of the Kit Cat Club*, *book of days* and *You are Her*. Linda also edited the ground-breaking anthology *Sixty Women Poets* (Bloodaxe 1993). She won First Prize in the 2013 National Poetry Competition with a poem from her new collection *Reading the Flowers*, due from Arc in 2016.



Lindsey Holland is a poet, editor, and creative writing tutor at Edge Hill University. Her small collection *Particle Soup* was published by KFS in 2012. She is working on a full collection, *Bloodlines*, drawing on PhD research into her family history. Her portfolio for the Manchester Poetry Prize is part of this work and an article about it appears in issue 49/2 of *Agenda*. She will be a Hawthornden Fellow in 2016 and was placed in the 2015 Wigtown, Café Writers, and Wenlock poetry competitions. She founded the network North West Poets, for which she edited and published two anthologies. She is co-editor of

the online poetry magazine *The Compass*.



Lucy Ingrams won the Birkbeck Michael Donaghy poetry prize and is currently studying on the MPhil Creative Writing programme at the University of South Wales under Philip Gross. She was a recent prize-winner in *Magma's* annual poetry competition, and has had poems in various magazines, including *Poetry Ireland*, *Ink*, *Sweat and Tears* and *Agenda*. She lives in Oxford, where she works as a nursery school teacher.

2015 Manchester Fiction Prize short list



Harriet Clare is an award winning journalist and filmmaker. She lives in London, and when not behind a camera, she writes fiction and narrative non-fiction – sometimes a little bit of both.



Martin Dodd lives in Steinbeck Country: Salinas, California, USA. Following his retirement from community service, he began creative writing in 2002 at age 67. His work has appeared in Cadillac Cicatrix, Hobart Journal, New Yinzer, Homestead Review, Holy Cuspidor, Foolish Times, Monkey Bicycle, Over My Dead Body, and Chicken Soup for the Recovering Soul. He has won, or received recognition in, various contests: Gimme Credit Screenplay Competition, St. Louis Short Story Contest, Writers Digest, By Line Magazine, Glimmer Train, Inkwell Journal, Writers Weekly, The Stoneslide Corrective, Central Coast Writers (California), East of Eden Writers Conference, and NorthernPros.



Sean Lusk recently quit his job in the civil service in order to write full-time. After a decade of wrestling with it, he has just finished his first novel. In 2014 he was runner-up in the Bridport Short Story Prize, and his stories have also been published in the Fish anthology and in Staple magazine. He has lived in Pakistan, South Africa and Egypt. He currently lives in Dorset, as he believes green hills and rough seas are the indispensable allies of the writer. He also likes to spend time in Greece, for much the same reason.



Angela Readman's stories have been finalists in The Short Story Prize, The Bristol Prize, The Bath Short Story Award, and The Asham Award. She is a twice shortlisted winner of The Costa Short Award. Her debut story collection, Don't Try This at Home was published in 2015 (And Other Stories.) The collection won a Saboteur Award, and The Rubery Book Award. She also writes poetry.



Tracey Slaughter's novella The Longest Drink in Town was published in 2015 by Pania Press, and her collection of short stories deleted scenes for lovers is due out from Victoria University in early 2016. Her writing has received numerous awards, including the 2014 Bridport Prize, the 2015 Landfall Essay Competition, and Katherine Mansfield Awards in 2005 and 2003; her poetry was also shortlisted in the 2014 Manchester Poetry Prize. She lives in Cambridge, New Zealand, and teaches Creative Writing at the University of Waikato, where she edits the online literary journal Mayhem.



Richard W. Strachan lives in Edinburgh. He writes book reviews for The Herald and the Scottish Review of Books, and has had short stories printed in magazines like Interzone, Litro and New Writing Scotland, amongst others, and by Galley Beggar Press as part of their 'Singles Club' digital list. He won a New Writer's Award from the Scottish Book Trust in 2012.