



The Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets 2021

The Wordsworth Trust and The British Library, with the generous support of the Michael Marks Charitable Trust, present The Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets, in partnership with The TLS and Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies (CHS), in Washington DC and in Nafplio, Greece. The Awards are also in association with National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales.

The Awards aim to raise the profile of poetry pamphlets, recognising the enormous contribution they make to the world of poetry.

There will be three Awards in 2021:

The Michael Marks Poetry Award recognises an outstanding poetry pamphlet published in the UK between March 1st 2020 and the closing date of September 17th 2021. The judges will take into account the quality of the pamphlet as well as the poetry.

Prize

The winning poet will receive a cheque for £5,000. They will also be given the opportunity to be Poet in Residence with the Harvard Alumni Association/Center for Hellenic Studies 'Spring Break to Greece'. The residency will take place in spring/summer 2022, exact date to be confirmed.

The Michael Marks Publishers' Award recognises an outstanding UK publisher of poetry in pamphlet form, based on their publishing programme between March 1st 2020* (see rules below) and the closing date of September 17th 2021. The judges will take into account the publishers' philosophy, aims, plans, design ethos and marketing strategy as well as the quality of the poetry.

Prize

The winning publisher will receive a cheque for £5,000.

The Michael Marks Illustration Award will recognise outstanding illustration of a poetry pamphlet published between March 1st 2020 and the closing date of September 17th 2021. The judge will consider illustration in any medium and will be looking for a subtle and sustained relationship between image and text, as well as the overall quality of the images.

Prize

The winning illustrator will receive a cheque for £1,000.

Winners

The Awards will be celebrated at a special dinner featuring the shortlisted poets and publishers, at the British Library on Tuesday 7th December 2021. A virtual event will be accessible in the case of the actual event being infeasible.

The winners of the Michael Marks Greek Bicentennial Poetry Pamphlet Prizes will also be celebrated at this event.

Closing date for submissions: 4.00pm Friday September 17th 2021.

The closing date is strict and no entries received after this date will be considered.

“These inspired awards recognise that the pamphlet has a fundamental importance in literary culture far exceeding anything suggested by the dictionary – “a brief publication, generally having a paper cover”. For many of the best poets now writing it was not only their first means of distribution but the first ratification of their gift.”

Seamus Heaney

There is further information below, about the Judges and Submission Rules.

The Judges

Poetry and Publishers' Awards

Julia Copus is a poet and biographer. She has published four collections of poetry, the most recent of which, *Girlhood* (Faber 2019), was winner of the inaugural Derek Walcott Prize for Poetry. Her awards include First Prize in the National Poetry Competition and the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem for 'An Easy Passage'. Faber also publishes her rhyming picture books for children, which include *Hog in the Fog* and *My Bed is an Air Balloon*. In 2018, she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. *This Rare Spirit: A Life of Charlotte Mew* is her first biography.

Manuela Pellegrino is a Fellow at the Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University. She holds a PhD in anthropology from University College of London. Through her current project on ethnographic poetry, she conceptualises and uses writing poetry in Griko, a minority language of Greek origins. Since 2006 she has conducted research among Griko-speakers and activists in Apulia (Southern Italy) and Greece. She was a fellow of the Smithsonian Institution (2018/2019) and lectured part-time at Brunel University (2014-2017). She originally comes from Zollino, a Griko-speaking village.

André Naffis-Sahely is the author of the collection *The Promised Land: Poems from Itinerant Life* (Penguin, 2017) and the pamphlet *The Other Side of Nowhere* (Rough Trade Books, 2019). He is also the editor of *The Heart of a Stranger: An Anthology of Exile Literature* (Pushkin Press, 2020). He is from Abu Dhabi, but was born in Venice to an Iranian father and an Italian mother. He has translated over twenty titles of fiction, poetry and nonfiction from French and Italian. He is a Visiting Teaching Fellow at the Manchester Writing School and is the editor of *Poetry London*.

Callum McKean is a curator at the British Library working with literary archives and manuscripts from the post-war period to the present day. Since June 2021, he has led on the Library's acquisition and research into the personal digital archives of writers, poets and other prominent individuals in contemporary public life. He received his BA in English Literature from University College London and his MPhil from the University of Cambridge, where his work considered the role of technology in contemporary auto-fiction. He has been the editor for the Library's English & Drama Blog since 2017.

Illustration Award

Sir Nicholas Penny was Director of the National Gallery, London from 2008 to 2015. Other positions have included lecturer in art history at the University of Manchester, Keeper of the Department of Western Art at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, Clore Curator of Renaissance Painting at the National Gallery London, and Senior Curator of Sculpture and Decorative Arts at the National Gallery of Art, Washington. He is the author of many books and articles on both painting and sculpture, including *Raphael* (with Roger Jones), *Taste and the Antique* (with Francis Haskell) and *The Materials of Sculpture*.

Submission Rules and Information

In submitting pamphlets for consideration for the Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets, entrants agree to be bound by these rules. Please read them carefully before submitting. It is the responsibility of the poet/publisher to read these rules and ensure that submissions are eligible. Ineligible submissions will not be considered. **No correspondence will be entered into regarding ineligible submissions and they will not be returned.** If in doubt, check eligibility with the Awards Administrator prior to submission.

Rules that are specific to only one Award can be found below in sections 5, 6, and 7, but for all Awards the following entrant rules apply:

1. Eligibility

- a) The definition of pamphlet includes pamphlets, chapbooks, art books and non-traditional book formats. The Awards aim to stimulate printed publications, so ebooks are not eligible. Publications with spines are acceptable provided other conditions of eligibility are met. Pamphlets may have paper or soft card covers but hard covers do not fall within this definition. Please contact the Awards Administrator if you are unsure of eligibility.
- b) **Publications must have no more than 36 pages, excluding covers but including blank pages, title page, notes, illustrations, etc.** Publications with more pages than this will not be eligible. There is no lower page limit. For the purposes of page count, coloured endpapers will be considered part of the cover. **Please count your pages carefully.**
- c) Single poems, single author collections, joint author publications, translations and anthologies are all eligible provided the other conditions of eligibility are met.
- d) Self-published work can be submitted.
- e) An ISBN is not required.
- f) Regularly published magazines or journals are not eligible. Please contact the Awards Administrator if you are unsure of eligibility.
- g) Poems must not have been previously published together as a series in a pamphlet or book form. They may have been published individually in magazines or anthologies.
- h) Posthumous work is eligible only if published within a year of the poet's death and during the eligibility period (since 1st March 2020). Please contact the Awards Administrator if you are unsure of eligibility.
- i) Only pamphlets published in the United Kingdom between March 1st 2020 and September 17th 2021 are eligible. **No pamphlet can be submitted to the Michael Marks Awards in more than one year.** Please note that we have expanded this window of eligibility to allow for pamphlets that were delayed in 2020 because of Covid still to be entered. This is a one-off alteration to the Awards.
- j) The Michael Marks Awards are not open to employees of the Wordsworth Trust, the British Library, the National Library of Scotland, the National Library of Wales, or the Times Literary Supplement.

2. Procedure

- a) Titles must be submitted in **final printed published form**, and an entry form should be filled out at the Awards' Entry Portal (see point 2.c below) for each Award you wish to enter.

For the **Poetry Award**, **six copies of each pamphlet must be submitted. Before posting them, you must fill out the Poetry Award form on the Entry Portal.** Pamphlets must be received at the submission address by 4.00pm on Friday 17th September 2021. Multiple titles can be entered on one page of the Entry Portal.

For the **Publishers' Award** there is no need to include additional copies of the pamphlet, **but you must also complete the Publishers' Award form on the Entry Portal.**

To enter the **Illustration Award**, **an additional copy of the pamphlet must be submitted**, making seven copies in total. **You must also complete the Illustration Award form on the Entry Portal.**

- b) The closing date is final and entries received after this will not be considered or returned. It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure arrival of entry by the closing date.
- c) From this year, entry forms must be completed online at the Awards' Entry Portal. Full information about entering, with a link to the portal, can be found here:
www.michaelmarksawards.org/enternow
- d) All submissions will be acknowledged by email after the pamphlets have been received and catalogued. You will not receive an email after completing forms on the Entry Portal, but will instead reach a 'Success' page. Please allow up to two weeks for acknowledgement of the pamphlets, though this will usually be sooner. If confirmation of arrival is not received within this period please contact the Awards Administrator by email: admin@michaelmarksawards.org
- e) Entry to the Michael Marks Awards is free.
- f) No entries will be returned. Of the six/seven copies of each title submitted, one copy will be sent to each of the judges, one will be offered to the Printed Literature Collections of the British Library and one copy will be held for administrative purposes. The permanent inclusion in the British Library collections is at the discretion of the British Library.
- g) The Michael Marks Awards reserves the right to amend these rules if it is deemed necessary.
- h) Submission of an entry will be deemed to imply unqualified acceptance of the Awards' Rules.

3. The Judging Process

- a) The shortlist and winners in the Poetry and Publishers' categories will be chosen by the panel of four judges. The winner of the Illustration Award will be chosen by the Illustration judge.
- b) The shortlist will be announced in November/December 2020 on the Awards website. No correspondence will be entered into prior to the official announcement.
- c) The winner of each award will be announced at a special dinner at the British Library on the evening of Tuesday 7th December 2021. A virtual event will be accessible in the case of the actual event being infeasible.

- d) All shortlisted poets/publishers and the winners of the Illustration Award and the Greek Bicentennial Poetry Pamphlet Prizes will be invited to read/speak at this event.
- e) The judges' decisions shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into.

4. Publicity

Entrants grant the organisers of the Michael Marks Awards for Poetry Pamphlets permission to use poems and illustrations from the submitted pamphlets for publicity purposes, in printed, electronic and audio form. Material for this will be decided by the judges and/or Awards Administrator, but this will not exceed two poems, or an equivalent extract from a longer work, and two illustrations (excluding cover). Copyright remains with the authors.

Publishers, poets and illustrators should be willing to participate in publicising the Awards. In the event of shortlisting, entrants give permission for the use on the Michael Marks Awards website and partner websites of images and video taken during the Awards event. The winning poet and Illustrator should be willing to participate in basic publicity of the prizes for the Michael Marks Awards.

5. Further Rules for the Poetry Award

- a) Where the winning work is by more than one author the Award will be shared proportionally between the authors or, in the case of posthumous entry, the author's estate.
- b) Where the winning work is a new translation the Award will be shared according to the contractual arrangements between the original author and translator.
- c) The CHS residency will be offered for specific dates, allowing for the ongoing pandemic. The Award is not transferable and no alternative will be offered. In the event of the winner being unable to accept the offered dates, the residency may be offered to another shortlisted poet at the discretion of the judges and the Awards Administrator.

6. Further Rules for the Publishers' Award

- a) Entrants to the Publishers' Award should submit all eligible pamphlets published between March 1st 2020 and the closing date of September 17th 2021. Each pamphlet submitted should meet conditions of eligibility for individual pamphlets and should also be entered for the Poetry Award.
- b) The 'eligible period' this year may differ between publishers. Please read this carefully. We have backdated the eligibility window to March 1st 2020, so as to include publishers that last year, because of the early pandemic, either could not enter some pamphlets or could not enter the Publishers' Award. Publishers must not enter **nor discuss in their statements** pamphlets and activities that they entered for last year's Awards. Only pamphlets, designs, promotions, etc, that have never previously been entered should be treated as falling within that publisher's own 'eligible period' (see point 6. d).1 below). In every case, this must not predate 1st March 2020.
- c) There is no minimum number of pamphlets that the publisher needs to have published during the eligible period.
- d) For the Publishers' Award publishers are asked to make a submission to the judges, on the Publisher's Award Entry Portal page, under the following headings:

1. **Pamphlet publishing** – a brief description of the pamphlet publishing programme for the eligible period (please see point 6. b) above), accompanied by a statement of the pamphlet publisher’s publishing philosophy, aims, strategy and future plans (**max. 2500 characters including spaces**).
2. **Design and printing** – a brief statement of the design and print criteria employed by the pamphlet publisher, which will be looked at by the judges in conjunction with the submitted pamphlets published during the eligible period (**max. 1500 characters including spaces**).
3. **Promotion** – a brief statement of the pamphlet publisher’s sales and promotional strategy and activities during the eligible period, and the results achieved (**max. 1500 characters including spaces**)

7. Further Rules for the Illustration Award

- a) Entries for the Illustration Award must include an additional copy of the pamphlet (seven in total), which will be forwarded to the Judge for the Illustration Award. Any entry must also be submitted for the Poetry Award and meet the overall conditions for entry to the Awards.
- b) All illustrations must be original and the work of the named illustrator. They should have been created for the specific purpose of illustrating the poetry pamphlet.
- c) All entries must be accompanied by a brief statement about the medium chosen for the illustration, on the appropriate entry form in the Entry Portal. (**max. 1500 characters per pamphlet including spaces**).
- d) There will be no shortlist announced for this Award. The overall winner will be contacted prior to the Awards event, and invited to attend, but the name of the winner will be embargoed until the Awards event.
- e) The winning illustrator grants the Michael Marks Awards a global, English language, non-exclusive license to reproduce two of the illustrations and the cover of the pamphlet, for use in digital and print publicity of the pamphlet and the Michael Marks Awards.

8. Enquiries and Submissions

Please direct any enquiries by email to admin@michaelmarksawards.org

All submissions should be sent to:

The Michael Marks Awards, 17 Orchard View, Aughton, Ormskirk, Lancashire L39 5AD

Access the Entry Portal and read further information about the Awards:

www.michaelmarksawards.org/enternow

For updates on the Awards, [sign up to the newsletter](#), or follow our social media:

Twitter: [@MarksAwards](#)

Instagram: [@MichaelMarksAwards](#)

Facebook: [@MichaelMarksAwards](#)

The Organisations behind the Awards

The Michael Marks Charitable Trust was established in 1966 by the late Lord Marks, 2nd Baron of Broughton. Since its foundation it has committed over £20m to assist non-profit organisations and charities dedicated to the preservation and promotion of culture and the environment.

The Awards are generously supported by the Michael Marks Charitable Trust.

The Award Partners

The British Library is the national library of the United Kingdom and one of the world's greatest research libraries. It has extensive collections of poetry in many languages and from all periods up to the present time. It holds the greatest collection of modern British poetry in the world and actively seeks to add contemporary poetry pamphlets to its collection. <https://www.bl.uk/>

The Wordsworth Trust is based at Dove Cottage in Grasmere, where William Wordsworth lived during his 'Golden Decade' (1799–1808) when he wrote most of what is now regarded as his most important work. It has been described as 'the finest literary museum in the world'. To mark the 250th anniversary of the poet's birth in 2020, the Wordsworth Trust has embarked on a £6 million development project called 'Reimagining Wordsworth', which will enable more people, from a more diverse range of backgrounds, to discover Wordsworth's poetry. For more information, visit www.wordsworth.org.uk

The TLS offers comprehensive coverage of the latest and most important publications, in every subject, in several languages, alongside current theatre, opera, exhibitions and film. Its authority is acknowledged world-wide. <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/>

Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies, located in Washington DC, was founded "exclusively for the establishment of an educational center in the field of Hellenic Studies designed to rediscover the humanism of the Hellenic Greeks.". **The Center in Greece** is a unique international center. Its main mission is to support and promote the study of Hellenic civilization, while functioning as a base of operations for students, researchers and scholars from the U.S., Greece, and elsewhere. <https://chs.harvard.edu/>

Associates of the Awards

The National Library of Scotland preserves the recorded memory of the Scottish nation, with collections that span the centuries, from earliest times to the digital age. All of Scotland's languages are collected as comprehensively as possible, and there are particularly extensive collections of poetry. Its status as one of the UK's legal deposit libraries has ensured that it is both Scotland's largest library and one of the major research libraries in Europe. <https://www.nls.uk/>

The National Library of Wales is the foremost repository for Welsh archives, manuscripts and other unique collections, and is one of the UK's legal deposit Libraries. Poetry has historically had a central place in Welsh culture, as in the other Celtic nations, and the Library's collections reflect that, both in early manuscripts and contemporary volumes from Wales and from many other countries throughout the world. <https://www.library.wales/>