

**NCLA**  
NEWCASTLE CENTRE  
FOR THE LITERARY ARTS



***TRANSFORMATIONS***  
**NEWCASTLE** **2019**  
**POETRY FESTIVAL** WED 1 MAY - SAT 4 MAY

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**READINGS - FILMS - LIVE MUSIC - WORKSHOPS - EXHIBITIONS**  
**NORTHERN POETRY SYMPOSIUM - NEWCASTLE POETRY COMPETITION**

[WWW.NEWCASTLEPOETRYFESTIVAL.CO.UK](http://WWW.NEWCASTLEPOETRYFESTIVAL.CO.UK)

**#NPFT19**

A four-day poetry extravaganza, with the following highlights:

- Festival launch evening with Terrance Hayes
- Northern Poetry Symposium 'Interplay' with the Poetry Book Society and NCLA featuring panels, readings and performances
- Music and poetry collaborations at the Sage Gateshead featuring poet Sinéad Morrissey and musician Catriona Macdonald, and poets and translators David Constantine and Tom Kuhn with soprano Sarah Gabriel
- Royal Literary Fund Lecture by Ishion Hutchinson
- A double launch: poems by award-winning poets transformed into exclusive prints; 'Redactions/Redirections', poems inspired by Newcastle University archives
- Inaugural Newcastle Poetry Competition prize reading with winners and judges Phoebe Power and Deryn Rees-Jones

## TICKETS

Our venues are Northern Stage and Sage Gateshead. Tickets for events at Northern Stage and for the Northern Poetry Symposium at Sage Gateshead: [www.newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk)

However, tickets for the music and poetry event at Sage Gateshead can only be purchased directly from their box office: [www.sagegateshead.com](http://www.sagegateshead.com)

### The Northern Poetry Symposium

Tickets: £15/£10 (students)

### Sage Gateshead | Music and Poetry Event

Tickets: £10/£8 (students)

### Northern Stage Pass | Weekend/Day Passes to all readings and discussions at Northern Stage only:

Friday and Saturday Full Ticket: £28/£18 (students)

Friday or Saturday Day Ticket: £15/£10 (students)

Events at Northern Stage can also be booked

individually at £6/£4 (students). Some events are free to attend, booking not required - see listings in this programme for clarification.

**Workshops** | Workshops are sold individually and are £15 per workshop. Book at: [www.newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk)

**Disclaimer:** Workshops are priced separately from events. Entry to workshops is not included in the price of day tickets or Northern Stage passes

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### Festival Staff:

Linda Anderson, Melanie Birch, John Challis, Peter Hebden, Sinéad Morrissey, Theresa Muñoz

Welcome to **Transformations**: Newcastle Poetry Festival 2019. This year we're celebrating cross-genre art and exploring poetry as a site of change—personal, political, national, even transnational—through the work of artists from all over the world whose practice challenges borders and boundaries.

Join us for a spellbinding opening with US luminary **Terrance Hayes**, whose *American Sonnets for my Past and Future Assassin* (shortlisted for the T S Eliot Prize and the National Book Critics' Circle Award for Poetry) considers America's contemporary moment, its gun violence, racism, and the rise of its current President, through the lens of the sonnet form. Also from the States and on a rare visit to the UK, experimental poet and lyrical essayist **Mary Ruefle** will be joined in conversation with **Carolyn Forché** and **Linda Anderson**. This year, acclaimed Jamaican poet **Ishion Hutchinson** delivers the Royal Literary Fund Lecture (on the poem 'Frederick Douglass' by Robert Hayden), while other international highlights include **Adelaide Ivánova** (Brazil), **Kim Hyesoon** and **Don Mee Choi** (Korea), and **Aleš Šteger** (Slovenia).

Our main programme features many of the past year's most lauded poets, including **Hannah Sullivan** (winner of the T S Eliot Prize), **Phoebe Power** (winner of the Forward Prize for Best First Collection), **Toby Martinez de las Rivas** (shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection), **Deryn Rees-Jones** (Poetry Book Society Recommendation), and **Liz Berry** (winner of the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem).

The rich instability of poetic texts themselves is at the heart of many of this year's Festival commissions, from the creation of a new set of fine art prints, to a unique redactions project whereby Festival poets **Andrew McMillan**, **Phoebe Power** and **Miriam Gamble** are invited to explore Newcastle University's Special Collections on a quest to forge new texts out of pre-existing materials.

Our third iteration of the Northern Poetry Symposium, in partnership with the Poetry Book Society, will investigate poetry's intersections with other discourses, including visual art, dance and digital technologies, with poets such as **Malika Booker** and **Sandeep Parmar** on our panels. Our evening show at Sage Gateshead continues our celebration of the electrifying fusion of poetry and music via two related performances: a dramatic re-enactment of the life and works of German playwright and poet Bertolt Brecht, featuring poet and translator **David Constantine**, **Tom Kuhn** and soprano **Sarah Gabriel**, and a Celtic crossover of poetry and folk music, *Gone Westering*, starring Irish poet **Sinéad Morrissey** and Shetland fiddler **Catriona Macdonald**.

This year, alongside our core offering of readings, lectures, workshops, panel discussions and commissions, we'll also be releasing three new podcasts, available for download during and after the Festival, and hosting an award ceremony for the brand new Newcastle Poetry Competition.

We look forward to welcoming you!

**Newcastle Poetry Festival team**

# WORKSHOPS

£15 PER WORKSHOP

11:00 - 13:00 | Wednesday 1 May

## **Workshop with Sean O'Brien**

*The Use of Dialogue in Poetry*

"And what is the use of a book without conversations?" Alice in Wonderland hits the nail on the head. In this workshop we'll explore the use of dialogue in poetry. We'll consider conversation, including the kind where we only hear one speaker, as well as the use of multiple voices and fragments.



14:00 - 16:00 | Wednesday 1 May

## **Workshop with Linda France**

*More Question Than Answer*

How might we give form and voice to doubtful spaces, passages between leaving and remaining? How can we write poems that broach change and contradiction without sacrificing integrity and precision? This practical workshop will explore our negotiation, as poets, between self and world, vulnerability and courage, silence and a common language – poetry's capacity for transformation.



10:00 - 12:00 | Friday 3 May

## **Workshop with Sasha Dugdale**

*The Art of the Un-possible*

This workshop combines poems by John Clare, recordings of birdsong and transliterating the song as a radical metaphor for the act of translation and writing. Please bring a smartphone if you own one (don't worry if not), plenty of fantasy, a pair of sharp ears and an instinct for serious fun.



10:00 - 12:00 | Saturday 4 May

## **Workshop with Aleš Šteger**

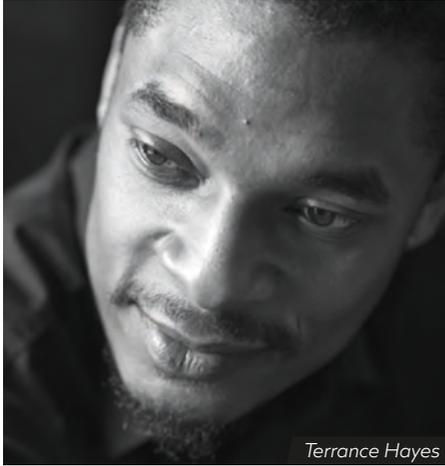
*Mastering the Prose Poem*

This workshop investigates what happens when poets use different forms of writing. Together we will be reading and commenting on short prose texts by Baudelaire and Tranströmer, as well as engaging in two or three playful writing exercises.



# NEWCASTLE POETRY FESTIVAL

## WEDNESDAY | NORTHERN STAGE



Terrance Hayes

19:00 - 20:30 | Wednesday 1 May | Northern Stage  
Tickets: £6/£4 (students)

### Festival Launch with Terrance Hayes

The opening of this year's festival is marked by a special event featuring critically-acclaimed poet **Terrance Hayes**. Hayes is the author of numerous collections of poetry, including *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin* (Penguin, 2018), shortlisted for both the National Book Award in Poetry and the T S Eliot Prize; and *How to Be Drawn* (Penguin, 2015), winner of the 2016 NAACP Image Award for Poetry. He will be hosted by **Sean O'Brien**, whose ninth collection *Europa* (2018), was shortlisted for the T S Eliot prize, of which he is a previous winner. Sean's book-length poem *Hammersmith* will be published by Picador in 2020.

# NORTHERN POETRY SYMPOSIUM

## THURSDAY | SAGE GATESHEAD

10:00 - 17:00 | Thursday 2 May | Northern Rock Foundation Hall | Tickets: £15/£10 (students)

### Northern Poetry Symposium: Inter/Play

Join us for an inspirational day of playful and inter-disciplinary poetry, innovation and transformation. The third Northern Poetry Symposium will celebrate the exciting Inter/Play of poetry, art and digital technologies through panel discussions, art interventions and performances, which transform and redefine poetry as we know it.

10:00 - 10:15 | Registration



Alec Finlay



Iris Colomb

### 10:15 - 11:15 | Inter/Ventions: Art and Poetry

**Irene Brown**, Head of Fine Art at Newcastle University, leads the discussion on cross-art collaborations between poetry, film and visual arts with artist and poet **Sophie Herxheimer**, who illustrates *Poetry London* magazine; internationally renowned artist and poet **Alec Finlay** and French poet-artist **Iris Colomb**, whose live art/poetry interventions expand the possibilities of traditional poetry readings.

# NORTHERN POETRY SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY | SAGE GATESHEAD

11:20 – 12:20 | **Inter/Active: The Digital Frontier and Pioneering Poetry**



Jon Stone



JR Carpenter



Stephen Sexton



Naho Matsuda

**Jon Stone**, editor of Sidekick Books' *Robot Poetry Anthology*, delves into the interactive world of poetry and cutting-edge technology, from Artificial Intelligence to robo-poetics and gaming, to reveal how innovation is re-inventing poetry. The panel will also include poet **JR Carpenter**, winner of the Dot Award for Digital Literature, **Stephen Sexton**, whose Super Mario-inspired poetry is forthcoming from Penguin this year, and **Naho Matsuda**, creator of an immersive installation which transformed live smart data into an ever-changing poem at the Great Exhibition of the North.

12:20 – 13:20: Break

13:20 – 14:20 | **Inter/Ruptions: Playful Forms/Transforming Poetry**

Leading poetry critic and editor of *The Penguin Book of the Prose Poem*, **Jeremy Noel-Tod** chairs a panel on the playful forms disrupting traditional definitions of poetry. World-class innovators including the distinguished American poet and essayist **Mary Ruefle**, Ledbury Forte Prize winner **Sandeep Parmar**, and filmmaker, poet and digital artist, **Ahnen Warner**, examine the transformations at play in poetry today, from micro-poems to lyrical essays, spoken word and prose poems.

14:20 – 14:40: Break

14:40 – 15:40 | **Inter/Pretations: Poetry and the Body**

**Linda Anderson**, poet and Professor of Modern English and American Literature at Newcastle University, explores the interplay between poetry and the body. This panel includes Forward prize-shortlisted poet **Malika Booker**, **Helen Ivory**, author of *The Anatomical Venus*, and prize-winning author of *playtime and physical*, **Andrew McMillan**. The panel will consider a range of ways in which poetry interacts with the body, from LGBTQ and feminist perspectives, to interpretative dance.

16:00 – 17:00 | **Inter/Play Performance: Poetry Reading**

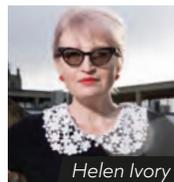
**Stephen Sexton**'s debut collection *If All the World and Love Were Young* is forthcoming from Penguin. Poet and literary critic, **Sandeep Parmar**, is the author of *The Marble Orchard* and *Eidolon* (Shearsman). And **Malika Booker** is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work is rooted in storytelling.



Mary Ruefle



Malika Booker



Helen Ivory



Sandeep Parmar

# MUSIC AND POETRY PROGRAMME

THURSDAY | SAGE GATESHEAD

19:00 - 20:45 | Thursday 2 May | Sage 2 | Tickets: £10/£8 (students)

## Gone Westering | Sinéad Morrissey and Catriona Macdonald



Sinéad Morrissey



Catriona Macdonald

Inspired by Norwegian folklorist Arne Bjørndal's visit to Shetland in 1949, Irish poet **Sinéad Morrissey** joins forces with Shetland fiddler and composer, **Catriona Macdonald**, to explore, through a complex interweaving of voice and music, ideas of tradition, the dynamics of archives, and our connection to the past. Catriona Macdonald is Senior Lecturer and Degree Programme Director of the BA in Folk and Traditional Music at

Newcastle University. She currently performs with her own band, as well as with international fiddle band String Sisters. Sinéad Morrissey is the author of six poetry collections. *On Balance* (2017) won the Forward Prize for Best Collection. She is Professor of Creative Writing and Director of the Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts at Newcastle University.

## Brecht Then and Now



Tom Kuhn



David Constantine



Joseph Atkins



Sarah Gabriel

Poet **David Constantine** and translator **Tom Kuhn** present the life and times of the great German writer Bertolt Brecht in an electric performance fusing poems, narration, songs, music and photographs. The performance traces the vagaries of the Weimar Republic and the rise of National Socialism through the lens of Brecht's poetry, translated into English for the first time as a complete edition (Norton, 2018). Here is a poet who, in speaking to the crises of his times, urgently addresses the crises of our own.

The event includes soprano **Sarah Gabriel**, who has performed operatic roles from Handel and Mozart to Benjamin Britten and many contemporary new works, as well as musical directors **Joseph Atkins** and **Sue Parrish**.

# EVENTS

## FRIDAY | NORTHERN STAGE

Friday 3 May 2019 | Northern Stage 2

11:00 - 12:00 | Free event, booking not required

### Launch of Redactions/Redirections and Poetry Prints



Miriam Gamble

Poets **Andrew McMillan**, **Phoebe Power** and **Miriam Gamble** present their new poems inspired by explorations in the Newcastle University archives. Artists **Erika Servin** and **Irene Brown** present their unique and exclusive artist prints of poems by Mary Ruefle, Terrance Hayes, Jackie Kay and Carolyn Forché, copies of which are available to buy from the festival tent.

With generous support from the Golsoncott Foundation.



13:00 - 14:00 | Tickets: £6/£4 (students)

### Kim Hyesoon and Don Mee Choi, Adelaide Ivánova and Rachel Long



Kim Hyesoon



Don Mee Choi



Adelaide Ivánova



Rachel Long

Join us for the festival's annual poetry in translation reading. This year we're excited to welcome **Kim Hyesoon**, one of the most prominent and influential contemporary poets of South Korea, and poet and translator **Don Mee Choi**, author of *Hardly War* (Wave Books, 2016) and the recipient of a Lannan Literary Fellowship. They are joined by the Brazilian poet, **Adelaide Ivánova**, whose first poetry collection, *O Martelo* (The Hammer) won the Rio de Janeiro Poetry Prize in 2018, and poet and translator **Rachel Long**, founder of Octavia: Poetry Collective for Womxn of Colour.

14:30 - 15:30 | Tickets: £6/£4 (students)

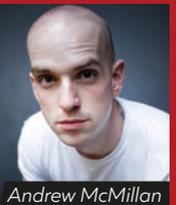
### Emily Hasler, Phoebe Power and Andrew McMillan



Emily Hasler



Phoebe Power

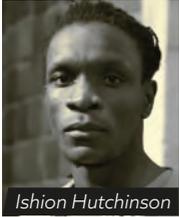


Andrew McMillan

Our afternoon reading brings together three diverse and experimental voices. **Emily Hasler** reflects on how our world is made in her expertly-crafted debut, *The Built Environment* (Pavilion, 2018); **Phoebe Power** mixes poetry, prose, image, language and narrative to question what it means to feel like a stranger at home in *Shrines of Upper Austria* (Carcanet, 2018); and **Andrew McMillan** takes an intimate and frank look at how we grow into our sexual selves and our adult identities in *playtime* (Cape, 2018).

16:00 - 17:00 | Free event, booking not required

### Royal Literary Fund Lecture: Ishion Hutchinson



Ishion Hutchinson

We are delighted to present the Royal Literary Fund Lecture by **Ishion Hutchinson** entitled "*The fire thus kindled, may be kindled again: A Reading of Robert Hayden's 'Frederick Douglass'.*" The American orator Frederick Douglass never leaves the civic imagination; he endures, in part, due to Robert Hayden's homage. This lecture will reflect on what makes this poem stand both as a public moment and a textual monument. Ishion Hutchinson is the author of *House of Lords and Commons* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016; Faber, 2017).



Royal Literary Fund

This event has been generously sponsored by the Royal Literary Fund. The Royal Literary Fund was set up in 1790 to help professional authors. Past beneficiaries have included Coleridge, Ivy Compton-Burnett, D H Lawrence and Dylan Thomas.

17:30 - 18:30 | Tickets: £6/£4 (students)

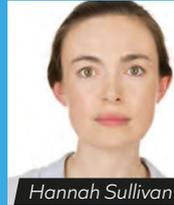
### Marilyn Hacker, Toby Martinez de las Rivas and Hannah Sullivan



Marilyn Hacker



Toby Martinez de las Rivas



Hannah Sullivan

**Marilyn Hacker** has, in a career spanning more than 40 years, established herself as a pre-eminent poet and translator. She is renowned for her use of form, and her mixing of colloquial and high culture, and has been aptly named a 'radical

formalist'. Her latest book *Blazons: New and Selected Poems 2000-2018* (Carcenet, 2018) is a PBS Special Commendation. **Hannah Sullivan's** exhilarating debut *Three Poems* (Faber, 2018), which counterposes innocence and disappointment, birth and grief, was awarded the 2018 T S Eliot Prize. **Toby Martinez de las Rivas** has published two books with Faber, most recently *Black Sun*, a work of startling meditation on history, theology, preservation and redemption.

19:30 - 20:30 | Tickets: £6/£4 (students)

### A Conversation with Mary Ruefle



Mary Ruefle

**Mary Ruefle** is a renowned American poet, essayist and erasure artist whose numerous books include the landmark collection of essays *Madness, Rack, and Honey* (Wave Books, 2012) and *Selected Poems* (Wave Books, 2010), which won the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. She is the recipient of many honours, including the Robert Creeley Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship. Mary is joined in conversation by **Carolyn Forché** and **Linda Anderson**.

# EVENTS

## SATURDAY | NORTHERN STAGE

Saturday 4 May 2019 | Northern Stage 2

11:00 - 12:00 | Free event, booking not required

### MA in Writing Poetry Readings

Come and hear the inspiring work of current Newcastle University MA in Writing Poetry students based at the Poetry School in London and at Newcastle: Diana Cant, Alexandra Corrin-Tachibana, Natalie Crick, Madelaine Culver-Goldstein, Caroline Davies, Anne Gill, Arpit Kaushik, Lydia Kennaway, Seán Kiely, Vanessa Lampert, Sara Levy, Michael McHugh, Erica Morris, Mary Mulholland, Niamh O'Connell, Susan Wallace-Shaddad, Natalie Whittaker and Judith Wozniak. The reading will be introduced by the MA Degree Programme Director, Jacob Polley. Details about the MA in Writing Poetry: [www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate)

12:30 - 13:30 | Tickets: £6/£4 (students)

### Martin Kratz, Marjorie Gill, Seán Hewitt, and Susannah Dickey



Martin Kratz



Marjorie Gill



Seán Hewitt



Susannah Dickey

The pamphlet is an important stepping stone in a poet's development. As a showcase of promise, it gives a focussed and exciting insight into a poet's particular world.

These four upcoming and widely-published poets – **Martin Kratz**, **Marjorie Gill**, **Seán Hewitt**, and **Susannah Dickey** – will read from their recently published pamphlets, each of which demonstrate the creative and imaginative potential of the form.

14:30 - 15:30 | Free event, booking not required

### Newcastle Poetry Competition Readings and Presentations

Join us for this special event celebrating the inaugural Newcastle Poetry Competition and Young People's Poetry Prize. Judges **Deryn Rees-Jones** and **Phoebe Power** will announce the winners in both categories who will read from their prize-winning work.

With generous support from Atom bank and the Friends of the Robinson Library.



Atom bank

15:45 - 16:45 | Tickets: £6/£4 (students)

### Miriam Gamble, Liz Berry and Deryn Rees-Jones



Miriam Gamble



Liz Berry



Deryn Rees-Jones

The Festival's penultimate reading welcomes back **Deryn Rees-Jones**, whose new collection *Erato* is just out from Seren. Deryn is a poet, critic and editor of the Pavilion Poetry list.

**Liz Berry**, whose debut *Black Country* (Chatto, 2014) was described as a 'sooty, soaring hymn to her native

West Midlands', joins us to read from *The Republic of Motherhood* (Chatto, 2018). And **Miriam Gamble**, the author of three collections, presents her latest: the uncanny, dark, poignant and uproarious *What Planet* (Bloodaxe, 2019).

17:00 - 18:00 | Tickets: £6/£4 (students)

### Ishion Hutchinson and Aleš Šteger



Ishion Hutchinson



Aleš Šteger

We're thrilled to conclude with two leading international poets. Slovenian writer **Aleš Šteger** has published seven books of poetry, three novels, and two books of essays. A *Chevalier des Artes et Lettres* in France and a member of the Berlin Academy of Arts, his awards include the 1999 Petrarch Prize and the 2016 International Bienek Prize. **Ishion Hutchinson** was born in Port Antonio, Jamaica. He is the author of two poetry collections: *Far District* and *House of Lords and Commons*,

and is the recipient of the National Book Critics' Circle Award for Poetry and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature.

## EXHIBITIONS

FRIDAY/SATURDAY | THE ARCHES AND NORTHERN STAGE 3

### The Gateway to the Festival

Artist **Tim Shaw** presents a digital sound installation under the Arches of Newcastle University, beside the Hatton Art Gallery, that 'randomly' collages fragments of poems by festival poets to create a new, ongoing, endlessly self-regenerating composition.

### Redactions/Redirections

The Redactions/Redirections project features three 'erasure' poems by **Phoebe Power**, **Miriam Gamble** and **Andrew McMillan** which have been inspired by archival texts. Newcastle University creative researcher **Peter Hebden** has turned the poems into innovative digital displays that illustrates the transformative process from text-extraction to finished poem.

### See Through and Light Boxes

Artist and filmmaker **Kate Sweeney** presents 'See Through', a film that uses drawing to explore the relationship between materiality and actions. Hand-drawn animation allows for the withdrawal of the visual representation of objects used in a task or activity, creating a space for a visual re-focussing on hands, the body, process and gesture.

Kate also presents the installation 'Light Boxes', which highlights the gestural in seemingly insignificant notes and scribbles drawn from the administration section of the Bloodaxe Archive.



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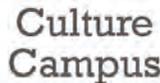
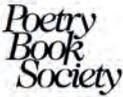
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We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following organisations,  
without whom the Newcastle Poetry Festival 2019 would not have been possible:



Culture Lab  
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**Interested in becoming a Friend of the Festival?**

Find out more at [www.newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk](http://www.newcastlepoetryfestival.co.uk)

### Refund Policy:

*We regret ticket money cannot be refunded, except in the unlikely event of a performance being cancelled. However, we can try to sell tickets on your behalf, but they will only be offered for re-sale once a performance has sold out. Please note that line-ups may be subject to change in unforeseen circumstances.*