

Contributors

Peter Adair's poems have appeared in The Honest Ulsterman, PN Review, The Bangor Literary Journal, Poetry Ireland Review, Boyne Berries, A New Ulster and other journals. He has been shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing. An e-pamphlet Calling Card is available from Amazon. He lives in Bangor, Co Down. @slipperypasswords

Mara Adamitz Scrupe's publications include four full collections. BEAST (2014 Stevens Manuscript Publication Prize, National Federation of State Poetry Societies, U.S), in the bare bones house of was (2019 Brighthorse Books Prize in Poetry), Eat The Marrow (2019 erbacce-press Poetry Book Prize; shortlisted 2020 Rubery Book Award UK), and REAP a flora (2023 Shipwreckt Books). She has selections in generational anthologies by Southword/ Munster Literature, Stony Thursday, and 64 Best Poets/ Black Mountain Press, and poems in key UK and US journals including The London Magazine, MsLexia, Magma, Abridged, and The Poetry Business/ Smith Doorstop. She has won or been shortlisted for significant literary awards including Arts University Bournemouth International Poetry Prize, Magma Pamphlet Publication Award, Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Prize, Pablo Neruda Poetry Prize and National Poetry Society UK. Twice nominated for the Pushcart Prize in poetry, she serves concurrently as Lance Williams Resident Artist in the Arts & Sciences, University of Kansas, and Dean and Professor Emerita, School of Art, University of the Arts Philadelphia.

Carlyle Baker is running uphill, working against the grain. He is becoming more comfortable with his celebrity; he uses creativity as a crutch. Carlyle lives a quite life at the frontier.

John Baucher (b.Lurgan 1965) Artist & Moochin Photoman. Member Vault Artist collective. 'Jubilee Vest (For Liz)' selected 200th Royal Hibernian Academy show. Work in Private and public collections including The Ulster Museum.

Bob Beagrie (PhD) lives in Middlesbrough. He is a poet, playwright and performer. Previous publications include, The Last Almanac (Yaffle Press (2023), When We Wake We Think We're Whalers from Eden (Stairwell Books 2021) And Then We Saw The Daughter of the Minotaur (The Black Light Engine Press 2020), Civil Insolencies (Smokestack 2019).

Maria Isakova Bennett, from Liverpool, is an artist, writer and teacher. Her latest publications are, an o an x (Hazel Press, 2023), Painting the Mersey in 17 Canvases (Hazel Press, 2022) and mira, a journal and exhibition with John Glenday (2020). Her awards include The Poetry Society's Peggy Poole, and a Northern Writers' Award. Maria founded and continues to create and edit the hand-stitched poetry journal Coast to Coast to Coast.

Maroula Blades is an Afro-British multidisciplinary artist living in Berlin. In June 2023, she was awarded a novella in-progress grant from the UK Society of Authors Foundation and the K. Blundell Trust, and in April 2023, a project grant from the Jan Michalski Foundation for Writing and Literature in Switzerland. She was selected for the 2021 Initial Special Grant from the Academy of Arts in Berlin. In 2020, Chapeltown Books, UK, published her short story collection, "The World in an Eye". Her works were published in The Caribbean Writer, Bacopa Literary Review, Crimeucopia: Tales From

The Back Porch, Lolwe, the Perito Prize Anthology, Words with Jam, Here Comes Everyone Magazine, Abridged, The London Reader, Ake Review, Midnight & Indigo, Aji, and Peepal Tree Press, among other magazines and anthologies.

Peter Bjoerk is an Irish photographer specialising in medium and large format analogue and post-photography techniques. His work focuses on the landscape and he is a recent graduate of the photography program at Griffith College Dublin. His graduate project, Sacred Geometry, was recently nominated for the RDS Visuals Arts Awards, as well as being selected by Sebah Chaudhry for publication in Source Magazine. Chaudhry wrote of the work; “Peter’s series, ‘Sacred Geometry’ is a conceptual but timeless series. The black and white images explore themes of presence and time. Seeking out places of mystery and heritage, he finds and photographs pyramids and shapes, combined with images capturing star-like movement. You are left questioning the authenticity of these sculptures, are they real or ethereal?”

Stephen de Búrca is a PhD candidate at the Seamus Heaney Centre in Belfast. From Galway, he was selected for the Poetry Ireland Introductions 2023 series. His work has appeared or is forthcoming in Poetry Ireland Review, Crannóg, The Honest Ulsterman, Ninth Letter, Fence, and elsewhere.

Liam Campbell has been taking photographs for over 20 years he has been interested in alternative ways of living that revolve around food & travel. He has exhibited on a regular basis and is based in Northern Ireland.

www.liamcampbellphotography.com

Sofia Conti is a Glasgow based award winning Social-Documentary photographer, who began her photographic journey as a mature student in 2017. Sofia recently finalised her studies at Falmouth University (Falmouth Flexible) where she achieved an MA Photography degree with Distinction. Collaboration for Sofia is an extremely important part of the work produced especially when exploring social inequalities within various communities including her own. Her collaborative process is about depicting the people and the connections to their environment. Sofia’s intention is to ethically represent communities that have a distorted view imposed upon them. By empowering each collaborator to tell their story, the hope is to enlighten the audience on the issues raised to change preconceived notions.

<https://www.sofiaconti.photography/>

Gillian Craig is a Scottish poet and children’s author, and has spent 20 years in the Middle East, South East Asia and East Asia. Her poems have appeared in New Writing Scotland, The Adriatic, Orbis, Dreich and The Storms among others.

Beatriu Delaveda is the pseudonym of a Chester expat who has written five books as well as two chapbooks of visual poetry. The poetry, fiction, and non-fiction of BD have been published in, among others, the Guardian, Atlantic, New York Times, McSweeney’s, Sugar House, fleeting, Mobius, 3 am, Mudlark, Pennine Platform, Plume, Storm Cellar, Mercurius, morphrog, mono, Tupelo Quarterly, The Bamboo Hut and Clapboard House, where they won a short story prize.

T. K. Edmond is a Fort Worth, Texas writer, musician, and screwup. T.K. is interested in dramaturgy, beauty and cruelty colliding in Texas, and general conceptualism. Recent work can be found in ZiNDaily, Strukturris, Abridged (Axis: 0-82), Pidgeonholes, and Apocalypse Confidential.

Kate Falvey's work has been published in many journals and anthologies, including six previous issues of Abridged; in a full-length collection, The Language of Little Girls (David Robert Books); and in two chapbooks, What the Sea Washes Up (Dancing Girl Press) and Morning Constitutional in Sunhat and Bolero (Green Fuse Poetic Arts). She co-founded (with Monique Ferrell) and for ten years edited the 2 Bridges Review, published through City Tech (City University of New York) where she teaches, and is an associate editor for the Bellevue Literary Review.

Frank Golden has published two novels and six books of poems, the last of which was IF YOU TOLERATE THIS (SALMON POETRY). He has received many bursaries and awards.

Kevin Graham lives and works in Dublin. His first collection, The Lookout Post, was published by Gallery Press in 2023.

Clement Hewison was born in London and is currently based on Teesside. 'I recently graduated first class honours in photographic practice. My photography examines place in-between two states, such as urban fringes or the climate crisis. I've recently shown at Free Range at the Truman Brewery, working to curate our show as a whole as well as my own work. My work was featured on the cover of Source Magazine's Graduate Photography Showcase. Alongside my photographic practice I'm also a skilled self-taught graphic designer with

an interest in transit systems. My other disciplines include photo manipulation, 3D design and business development and location research, as well as solo developing a mobile puzzle game in the Swift programming language.'

Elin Johnston is a Visual Artist living in Belfast. Her practice is inter-disciplinary in basis, with digital process at its core, including Video Poetry and Experimental Moving Image, 2D Digital Imaging, and 3D Sculptural Assemblage. Her work has been screened nationally and internationally, including digital arts and film festivals in Berlin, Copenhagen, Athens, Porto, Barcelona, Madrid, Dublin, Sweden, the UK, and the USA. She has received awards from FICIMAD 2021 (Madrid), Berlin Flash Film Festival 2021, Oregon Documentary Film Festival 2021 (Portland), and White Deer International Film Festival 2021 (Notts.), and has had work accepted by The Honest Ulsterman, and Epoque Press. Johnston's work is held in the collections of the Arts Council NI, The Poetic Phonotheque Copenhagen, and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council NI. She was formerly a London/Bristol based Creative Director, with projects implemented worldwide, and also lectured at a number of Art & Design Faculties in England and Wales.

www.elinjohnston.com

Brian Kirk has published a poetry collection After The Fall (Salmon Poetry, 2017) and a short fiction chapbook It's Not Me, It's You (Southword Editions, 2019). His second poetry collection Hare's Breath is due in late 2023 His novel Riverrun was a winner of the IWC Novel Fair.

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Suzanne Magee is a queer writer and visual artist from Belfast whose work has appeared in Oxford University's Tower Poetry series, The Galway Review, Abridged, The Honest Ulsterman, SHIFTLit Derry, and other journals. She is working on her first book.

Jo Mazelis is the author of four acclaimed short story collections, including the Commonwealth Best First Book Shortlisted Diving Girls, the Edge Hill Prize longlisted, Ritual, 1969 and Blister which was shortlisted for the Rubery Award in 2023. Her novel Significance won the Jerwood Prize. She is currently working towards her first poetry collection. Originally a photographer and graphic designer, she lives in South Wales. Her poems have appeared in The Pomegranate, Abridged, Poetry Wales, Bad Lilies, The Lonely Crowd and I am Not a Silent Poet.

Virginia Mazzocato, an Italian artist currently studies MA Photography Arts at Westminster University (London). Her artistic practice revolves around the realm of constructed reality and staged photography. In her recent work, she delves into the intricate aspect of the photographic double, drawing inspiration from Luigi Pirandello's novel, 'One, No One and One Hundred Thousand'. This novel follows the protagonist's quest to unravel the myriad identities ascribed to him by those around him. Virginia's exploration traverses themes of identity, perception, and self-expression, interwoven through the art of concealing and revealing. The space between imaginary and real, between you and me. Performing myself, conforming to myself. I am a replica, a human construction, a robotic body crafted with care. I am plastic, moulded clay, I am a vase, a phone, a mannequin, a stack of chairs. Who am I am without my possessions? Can you tell?

I am a flock of swallows over the horizon, inevitably fading away.

A fictional space of perennial solitude, of memorabilia, of residing memories, of objects that outlast us as traces of life left behind.

In this space I'm bound, awaiting a picture, a substitute to seize, a representation to take my place.

Terri Metcalfe (Cumbria native) moved to Ireland with her Mayo born partner and two children in 2019. Terri has been published in Abridged, A New Ulster, Green Ink Poetry, Skylight 47, The Storms Journal and Dreich (forthcoming), amongst others. She was shortlisted for the Open Window 2023 and 2024 mentorship programme and was invited as a featured reader for the 20th anniversary of Over the Edge Literary Events. She is currently working on her debut collection.

Geraldine Mitchell lives on the Co. Mayo coast. Her most recent collection, Mute/Unmute, was published by Arlen House in 2020. Her previous collections are Mountains for Breakfast (2017), Of Birds and Bones (2014), World Without Maps (2011).

Locky Morris was born in Derry City where he continues to live and work. Renowned for his early work that explicitly dealt with the conflict in Northern Ireland – most notably from a socially embedded perspective – he has gone on to develop another working vocabulary that moves fluidly between the personal, public and political. While still informed by the complexities and intricacies of his immediate landscape, this work extends across photography, video, gallery installation and incorporates the social media platform Instagram.

Zoë Murdoch was born and lives in Belfast. She is currently based at Lawrence Street Workshops. In 2012 she was made an Associate Academician of the Royal Ulster Academy and in 2019 she was elevated to an Academician. Murdoch has had solo exhibitions in the QSS Gallery, Belfast; the Fenderesky Gallery, Belfast and the Verbal Arts Centre, Derry. Her work has been exhibited in a wide range of group and theme based shows throughout Britain and Ireland and has been included in international exhibitions in America, China, France, Hungary and Japan. She has received awards from Arts Council Northern Ireland, the British Council and the RUA where she was granted the 'Tyrone Guthrie Residency Award for an artist from Northern Ireland working in any medium' in 2017 and the 'Robinson McIlwaine Architects "Original Vision" Award' in 2010 and 2007. Her work is part of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland's Collection and numerous private collections.

Kathleen McCracken is the author of eight collections of poetry including a bilingual English/Portuguese edition entitled *Double Self Portrait with Mirror: New and Selected Poems*. In 2019 she won the Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing. From 1992-2022 Kathleen was Lecturer in Creative Writing and Contemporary Literature at Ulster University, Northern Ireland.

Scott McKendry is from North Belfast. His poems have appeared in *The Poetry Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Virginia Quarterly Review* and elsewhere. He's the recipient of a Patrick Kavanagh Award. McKendry's *Curfuffle (Lifeboat)* was Poetry Book Society Autumn Pamphlet Choice 2019. A collection, *GUB (Corsair)*, will be out in 2024.

Róisín Ní Neachtain is an artist and poet living in Kildare. Her work has been published in *Broken Sleep Books* and *Firmament* amongst others.

Aoife Riach's poetry has been published in *Poetry Ireland Review*, *crannóg*, *Channel*, *The Pickled Body* and other magazines. She was a 2019 Irish Writers Centre Young Writer Delegate and was shortlisted for the Marian Keyes Young Writer Award. Her poem "Vancouver" was selected for the *Hungering* curation of the Poetry Jukebox.

Gail Ritchie (b. Newtownards, Co. Down, Northern Ireland) studied at Ulster University (BA Hons. 1991) and at Queen's University (MA Arts Management 2013). In 2022 she was awarded a PhD in International Relations from Queen's University Belfast for practice-based research into how the Northern Ireland Troubles might be commemorated in material form. Previously, Gail was a member of Backwater Artists Group Cork before relocating to Belfast and joining Queen Street Studios in 2003. Since then, her practice has centred on a sustained engagement with conflict – personal, political and environmental. She has received awards from Arts Council Ireland, Arts Council Northern Ireland, Cultural Relations Committee, the British Council and the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Gerard Smyth is a Dublin-born poet whose work has appeared in journals in Ireland, Britain and the United States as well as in translation. He has published ten collections, including *The Sundays of Eternity* (Dedalus Press, 2020) and *The Fullness of Time: New and Selected Poems* (Dedalus Press, 2010). He is a member of Aosdána.
www.gerardsmyth.com

Virginie Trachsler is writing a PhD dissertation on contemporary Irish poetry and works as a translator. When in Paris, she teaches English literature and French as a foreign language.

Aled Turner is an MFA graduate at Kingston University. Upcoming poetry at Broken Sleep Books. Words in Death Knell, Reflex Press. Pamphlet shortlisted at Little Betty Press. @AledTurner (Twitter/X)

Erick Verran is the author of the nonfiction collection *Obiter Dicta* (Punctum Books, 2021). His recent scholarship can be found in the *Journal of Gaming and Virtual Worlds* and *Postmodern Culture*, while poetry and criticism are forthcoming or appear in the *Georgia Review*, the *Harvard Review*, *The Drift*, the *Cortland Review*, *Subtropics*, the *Massachusetts Review*, and elsewhere. He lives in New York.

Patricio Villanueva is a Mexican artist who works at the intersection of photography, sculpture, and sound. He describes his practice as fictional abstraction. Constantly exploring the connections between the virtual and the physical; Villanueva's primary interest lies in the constructive possibilities of the photographic medium to convey ideas on architecture, science-fiction, and spirituality. By mixing analogue and digital image-making techniques, he incorporates ambiguity into the end result; leaving room for a broad spectrum of possible projections. It is this uncertainty that the artist refers to as space. His images become fragments that add to a constant process of world-building. Patricio Villanueva lives and works in London.

Lee Welch creates gestural, atmospheric paintings that attest to the psychological and emotional depths of his chosen subjects and map out delicate negotiations between beauty, desire, and the painted image. Depicting figures from his own milieu, as well as from history, literature, music, and tennis, Welch finds feeling in that which he depicts, always rendered with the intensity of his particular humanism; a close looking akin to love. In each subject's specificity, the artist reveals the universal feelings that connect us to each other, and that stretch from our present moment back through time. Born in Kentucky and based in Dublin, Welch's work has been featured in numerous institutions including Eli and Edythe Broad Art Museum, Michigan State University; The Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin; Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León (MUSAC), León, Spain and Kerlin Gallery, Dublin.

Howard Wright teaches Design History at the Belfast School of Art and this year has been published in *The Frogmore Papers*, *Cyphers* and *Obsessed with Pipework*.

Abridged personnel:

Project Coordinator/Curatorial Editor: Gregory McCartney is where the sky meets the ground, where the street folds round, where the voice you hold don't make no sound...

Project Editor: Susanna Galbraith (b. Belfast) has been Abridged since her teens and Editorial-ghost her entire adult life. Writer on wheels, her essays and poems can be found scattered about various places. Her first pamphlet is forthcoming with Nine Pens Press, 2024 and she's a current Poetry Ireland Introductions selectee.
