

JANE MARTIN POETRY PRIZE

2025

About the Jane Martin Poetry Prize

Girton College is delighted to invite entries for the 2025 Jane Martin Poetry Prize. The competition will be judged by experts drawn from across the literary world and academia. We are thrilled that this year the panel will include Caoilinn Hughes and Kirsten Norrie.

Building on the success of previous years, the 2025 winner will receive not just a cash prize of £1000, but the opportunity to give a reading at a celebratory event on Thursday 27th February, at which the prize will be awarded. There will also be a second cash prize of £500.

The competition is open to all UK residents between 18 and 30 years of age, until noon on Monday, 9 December 2024.

About Girton College

Girton is a college of the University of Cambridge. Established in 1869 on the principles of equality and diversity, Girton played a leading role in opening higher education to women. Fully mixed for nearly 50 years, the College now prides itself on offering the highest quality of learning to all, regardless of background.

Girton has contributed to the education and shared in the lives of many celebrated authors and has a strong tradition of supporting creative writing. Alumni include Gwyneth Lewis (First National poet of Wales), Wendy Holden (*School for Husbands, Marrying Up*) and Emma Donoghue (*Room, the Woman Who Gave Birth to Rabbits*).

The Panel

The shortlisted entries for the 2025 Jane Martin Poetry Prize will be judged by Caoilinn Hughes and Kirsten Norrie.

Caoilinn Hughes's latest novel is *The Alternatives*, a *New York Times* Editor's Choice. She is the author of *The Wild Laughter*, which won the Royal Society of Literature's Encore Award, and *Orchid & the Wasp*, which won the Collyer Bristow Prize and was longlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award. Her short stories have won the Irish Book Awards' Story of the Year, The Moth Short Story Prize, and an O.Henry Prize. She was recently Oscar Wilde Writer Fellow at Trinity College Dublin and a Cullman Center Fellow at New York Public Library.



Photo Credit: Amitava Kuma

Dr. Kirsten Norrie is the author of the novel *An American Book of the Dead* (Broken Sleep Books, 2024), *Scottish Lost Boys: Ten Renegade Essays* (Broken Sleep Books, 2025) and *Eagle Song: A Spirit Road Trip* (Unbound, 2026). She has published several critically acclaimed poetry collections and a pamphlet under her Highland matrilineal name MacGillivray: *The Last Wolf of Scotland* (Red Hen Press 2013) and *The Nine of Diamonds: Surroial Mordantless*, (Bloodaxe Books 2016), *The Gaelic Garden of the Dead* (Bloodaxe Books, 2019), *Ravage: An Astonishment of Fire* (Bloodaxe Books, 2023), *The Demon Tracts* (Broken Sleep Books, 2024) and *Until the Twilight Fails* (Dare-Gale Press, forthcoming 2025/6). Her work has appeared in the *Guardian*, the *TLS*, the *Scotsman* and on BBC Radio 3 Late Junction and the Verb. She was previously an AHRC Kluge Fellow at the Library of Congress and a 2019 recipient of a Fondation Jan Michalski writer residency in Switzerland. The MacGillivray archive is held at the Scottish Poetry Library.



About Jane Martin

The Prize is named in memory of Jane Martin. Jane studied Classics at Girton, graduating in 1981. She retained an affection for the College and felt strong bonds with those who had taught and supported her. Jane had always taken great pleasure in writing. On her passing, her father chose to endow a national prize based at Girton for outstanding poetry, to be named after her.

How to enter

Entry rules for the 2025 Jane Martin Poetry Prize are:

- 1. Entrants must be resident in the UK and (on 27th February 2025) be between 18 and 30 years of age.**
- Valid entries will be written in English and consist of a maximum of two poems of no more than two sides of A4 in (total) length.
- There is no fee for submissions but entries are limited to two poems per person per year, submitted as one entry.
- The judges may, at their discretion, request further samples of work from short-listed candidates.
- The first prize for the winning poet is £1000 and £500 for the second prize, though the panel reserves the right to distribute this.
- Entries will be judged anonymously.
- Previous winners are not permitted to enter again.
- We regret that copies of poetry can not be returned.
- Poems submitted must not have been previously published. Self-published is not defined as previously published.
- The prize will open on 4th November 2024 and close at noon on 9th December 2024. The winner will be notified by mid February.
- Girton College may include work from the winning entry in its Annual Review and other college publications/media.

Entries will be submitted online as one PDF document here:

https://app.casc.cam.ac.uk/fas_live/jmp25/

**If there are any problems contact
poetryprize@girton.cam.ac.uk**