

SUMMIT

A POETRY SCHOOL FESTIVAL

RACHAEL ALLEN
SIMON ARMITAGE
KHAIRANI BAROKKA
CAROLINE BIRD
SEAN BORODALE
NIALL CAMPBELL
ANTHONY VAHNI CAPILDEO
JR CARPENTER
ELLA DUFFY
ANTONY DUNN
MATTHEW HOLLIS
MATT HOWARD
ZAFFAR KUNIAL
KAREN MCCARTHY WOOLF
HELEN MORT
CALEB PARKIN
ALYCIA PIRMOHAMED
YVONNE REDDICK
JOHN WEDGWOOD CLARKE
JOHN WHALE

19-20 OCTOBER 2024
YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK
UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

A B O U T

Summit: A Poetry School Festival is a landmark ecopoetry, nature and climate writing festival. Its inaugural edition is in collaboration with the University of Leeds Poetry Centre, the Laurel Prize, the National Poetry Centre, and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, and is supported by Arts Council England, National Landscapes Association, and Leeds City Council.

The festival will provide a vital space to consider how words, and worlds, are deeply and irrevocably connected, exploring what role poetry plays as we face up to immense biodiversity losses, habitat destruction, rising carbon emissions, and warming temperatures. Across two days, *Summit* brings together some of the UK's most celebrated writers for performances, workshops, surgeries, and panel discussions.

Speakers include Rachael Allen, Simon Armitage, Khairani Barokka, Caroline Bird, Sean Borodale, Niall Campbell, Anthony Vahni Capildeo, JR Carpenter, Ella Duffy, Antony Dunn, Matthew Hollis, Matt Howard, Zaffar Kunial, Karen McCarthy Woolf, Helen Mort, Caleb Parkin, Alycia Pirmohamed, Yvonne Reddick, John Wedgwood Clarke, and John Whale.

**POETRY
SCHOOL**



L A U R E L P R I Z E C E R E M O N Y

LIVE

19

1 7 : 3 0 - 1 8 : 3 0

STREAM

OCTOBER

The Laurel Prize awards collections of nature and environmental poetry that highlight the climate crisis, and raise awareness of global ecological issues.

In this ceremony, the 2024 winners will be announced, including First, Second, and Third Prizes, as well as awards for Best UK First collection and Best International First Collection. The event will be hosted by Simon Armitage, Isy Mead, and this year's judges Mona Arshi and Caroline Bird.

For live-stream links: email administration@poetryschool.com.

DAY

01

YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

WORKSHOP 01: INTRO TO NATURE POETRY **HAYLOFT 10.30-12.00**

You already see the world in ways that nobody else can. Find out how organically poetry can come to you in a series of informal games and group conversations with Antony Dunn. This workshop will help you transform what you see into pieces of creative writing, and send you off with skills and techniques to practise later. It's not school. It's not a lesson. It's play with purpose.

FAMILY POETRY AT THE PARK **CHAPEL 11.30-12.30**

Join YSP favourite Natalie Bellingham for this fun-filled family friendly hour that combines the beauty of nature with the magic of words. You're invited to explore the wonders of the surrounding landscape as a source of inspiration, with the chance to try out different imaginative approaches to writing. This session, designed for all ages, invites you to express your creativity.

READING 01: CYCLICAL WORLDS **CHAPEL 13.00-14.00**

In this seasonal performance, one month post-equinox, we solidify our place within the choreography of the autumn landscape. Featuring readings from Ella Duffy, with *Greencombe*, a meditation on a woodland garden of mazy paths, and Matthew Hollis, with *Leaves*, a long poem which holds loss and grief in one hand; new life in the other. Hosted by Sara Hudston, Editor of Hazel Press.

WORKSHOP 02: PETRO-POLITICS **HAYLOFT 13.00-14.30**

Yvonne Reddick leads a generative and informed writing workshop centred on the creation of petro-poetry. Attendees will consider the way oil intrinsically shapes and informs modern life, and what we can do to find climate-positive forms of energy. Learn how to write about the power and perils of petroleum, and equip yourself with knowledge about the substance that fuels our society.

READING 02: THE LAUREL LONGLIST **CHAPEL 15.30-16.30**

Introduced by a performance from Laurel Judge Caroline Bird, the iconic YSP Chapel plays host to the 2024 Laurel Prize longlist. During the hour, we will hear excerpts from the year's most innovative and thought-provoking ecopoetic collections: books which explore the complex interconnected systems of our world, as well as the integral interplay between literature and activism.

WORKSHOP 03: MINGLING BODIES **HAYLOFT 15.45-17.15**

Caleb Parkin's ethos is centred around inviting a reflexive, embodied, and sensuous re-engagement with environment. In this seriously playful workshop, we meet around an otherworldly pool to "contaminate" each other's writing. Here, we unsettle individual and collective authorship by plunging into poems. We will look at watery and pondo poems, which play with scale and weirdness, to manifest otherworldly vibes.

POETRY**HOUSE 10, CAVENDISH ROAD 10.00-11.50**

In these focused and personalised sessions, hosted by John Whale and Matt Howard, attendees will be given feedback on their poems-in-progress, discussing the page as a space for understanding ecology and the environment. These surgeries are a unique opportunity to gain specialised editorial feedback. (Booked in advance. For more information, see the Poetry School website.)

SURGERIES**WORKSHOP 04: THROUGH THE CRACKS****HOUSE 10, ALUMNI ROOM 10.00-11.30**

Sometimes it's hard to write surrealism when the world keeps writing it for us. How can we be playful when the stakes are so high? Caroline Bird will approach the task of writing a burning world with wonder, weirdness, gallows humour, and, if we're lucky, a little bit of hope. This session is centred on continuing to create, cultivating poems that might burst up through the cracks.

CLIMATE**CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL 12.00-12.15**

Join John Whale, Director of the University of Leeds Poetry Centre, and Vera Trappman, Priestley Centre for Climate Futures, for a brief opening summit which maps the latest developments in climate science whilst considering the role of poetry, and the arts at large, in forging new imaginative pathways, beyond decorative communication. What are the stakes? What are the possibilities?

SUMMIT**LAUREL****CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL 12.15-13.15**

Writing the living world means balancing creation and consumption, conservation and destruction. Join the Poet Laureate, Simon Armitage, and a winner of the Laurel Prize, for moments of celebration, mourning, attention and witness, acknowledging the ways our words and actions are enmeshed. Hosted by Emma Trott, Convenor of the Environmental Humanities Group, University of Leeds.

PLAYBACK**PANEL 01: BLUE POETICS****CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL 13.30-14.30**

Exploring the hydrosphere – through oceans, lakes, and fog, island ecosystems and field notes written with glaciologists – these readings study the connection between water and words, through bodies in mercurial transformative states. With readings from Niall Campbell, Helen Mort, and Alycia Pirmohamed. Hosted by Jeremy Davies, Associate Professor of English, University of Leeds.

PANEL 02: GEO, ECO, TOPO**CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL 14.45-15.45**

These performances will examine the connection between physical geography and its literary representation, where poetry is a form of placemaking – spatial and temporal creation – a means of understanding our relationship to the Earth as home. With readings from Khairani Barokka, Sean Borodale, and JR Carpenter. Hosted by Fiona Becket, Professor of Contemporary Poetics, University of Leeds.

PANEL 03: TOXIC STATES
CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL 16.00-17.00

Reading around environmental damage, corrosion, pollution, consumption, and the materiality of human and more-than-human interactions, performances from Rachael Allen, Anthony Vahni Capildeo, and John Wedgwood Clarke will examine the extent of anthropogenic destruction through nuanced depictions of multi-species entanglement. Hosted by poet and editor Kayo Chingonyi.

EVENING RECEPTION
CONCERT HALL FOYER 17.00-18.00

NATIONAL POETRY CENTRE
PRESENTS: INWARD, INLAND
CLOTHWORKERS CONCERT HALL 18.00-19.00

In *Summit's* closing event, Zaffar Kunial and Karen McCarthy Woolf join Nick Barley, Director of the National Poetry Centre, for a series of readings focused on linguistic frictions and disturbances: the textures and tensions that define our sense of self in a shifting biosphere. From known unknowns to unknown unknowns, we explore the thresholds between words and their meaning.

NATIONAL POETRY
CENTRE PRESENTS

R U B B I S H
W O R D S

CORN EXCHANGE
LEEDS CITY CENTRE
18-20 OCTOBER
1 0 : 0 0 - 1 6 : 0 0

Recycling is good for the planet. Being creative is good for your health. Rubbish Words presents an entertaining, immersive and life-enhancing poetry pop-up project for people of all ages. We'll provide the (recycled) words: you cut them up in whatever way you like. Our team will work with you to help you create a poem of your own – and display it for others to read.

This project was made possible by funding from Leeds City Council and the University of Leeds.

S P E A K E R B I O S

RACHAEL

Rachael Allen is the author of *God Complex* and *Kingdomland*, both published by Faber. She works as an editor and lecturer in London.

SIMON

Simon Armitage is Professor of Poetry at the University of Leeds. His numerous accolades include the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry and an Ivor Novello Award. His latest collection, *Blossomise*, was a Sunday Times Bestseller. Armitage writes, records, and performs with the band LYR. *Never Good with Horses* features his song lyrics. He also writes extensively for theatre, television, and radio. He was elected Oxford Professor of Poetry (2015-2019). Simon Armitage is Poet Laureate.

NICK

Nick Barley has recently been appointed as Director of the forthcoming National Poetry Centre in Leeds. He is also a Professor in Practice at Durham University. Nick was Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival from 2009 until 2023. He chaired the judges for the 2017 International Booker Prize.

KHAIRANI

Khairani Barokka is a writer, artist, and translator from Jakarta, and former Editor of *Modern Poetry in Translation*. Among her honours, she was an Associate Artist at the National Centre for Writing, and was shortlisted for the 2023 Asian Women of Achievement Awards. Okka's work has been presented widely internationally, and centres disability justice as anticolonial praxis and environmental

ALLEN

justice. Her latest books are *Ultimatum Orangutan* (Nine Arches), shortlisted for the 2022 Barbellion Prize, and 2024's *amuk* (Nine Arches).

FIONA

Fiona Becket is Professor of Contemporary Poetics at the University of Leeds. With Terry Gifford she co-edited *Culture, Creativity and Environment: New Environmentalist Criticism* (2007), and has published on eco-poetics with respect to modernists James Joyce and D. H. Lawrence, and visual poetics with respect to a range of twentieth-century and contemporary poets. Her latest book, *Contemporary Visual Poetry: Women Writing the Posthuman* will be published by Routledge in February 2025.

NAT

Nat Bellingham is a freelance maker, performer, and creative facilitator. Born in South Africa, raised in Manchester, and now living in Wakefield, Nat works with adults, children, families and young people in visual arts. Working in a range of settings, play and imagination is at the centre of everything Nat does. She continues to instigate projects, collaborate, mentor, and teach, alongside her practice. She has worked with YSP as an artist educator for over 12 years.

CAROLINE

Caroline Bird's selected poems, *Rookie* (2022), and *The Air Year* (2020) are two of Carcanet's most popular books of the decade. She won the Forward Prize for Best Collection in 2020, and has been shortlisted for the TS Eliot Prize, the Costa Book Awards, the Ted Hughes Award, the Polari Prize, and the Dylan Thomas Prize. She won a Cholmondeley Award in 2023. Her latest collection, *Ambush at Still Lake*, was published in July 2024.

BECKET

BELLINGHAM

BIRD

SEAN

BORODALE

Sean Borodale has four collections of poetry published by Jonathan Cape; his debut *Bee Journal* was shortlisted for the TS Eliot prize and Costa Book Awards. He was a Granta New Poet in 2012 and is a Poetry Book Society Next Generation Poet. He has been Guest Artist at the Rijksakademie, Amsterdam, and Oscar Wilde Fellow at Trinity College Dublin. He is currently a Research Fellow at the Slade School of Fine Art, London.

NIALL

CAMPBELL

Niall Campbell is a poet from the Outer Hebrides of Scotland. His first poetry collection, *Moontide* (2014), was published by Bloodaxe Books and won the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award. *Noctuary* (2019), his second, was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection. His latest, *The Island in the Sound* (2024), creates an archipelago of memories, lyrics, observations and folktales. He is currently editor of *Poetry London*.

ANTHONY

VAHNI

CAPILDEO

Anthony V. Capildeo FRSL is a Trinidadian Scottish writer of poetry and non-fiction. Currently Writer in Residence and Professor at the University of York, their interests include silence, plurilingualism, place, memory, faith, and traditional masquerade. Capildeo's ninth full-length book, *Polkadot Wounds* (Carcanet, 2024), had its in-person launch at the ALT book fringe in Edinburgh, in solidarity with calls for book workers to organize for a genocide-free, fossil fuel-free book industry.

JR

CARPENTER

J. R. Carpenter is an artist, writer, mudlarker, fossil hunter, and lecturer in Performance Writing in the School of English at University

of Leeds. Her most recent poetry collection, *The Pleasure of the Coast*, was published by Pamenar Press in 2023. Her next collection, *Measures of Weather*, will be published by Shearsman Books in 2025.

KAYO

CHINGONYI

Kayo Chingonyi FRSL was born in Zambia, and moved to the UK at the age of six. His first full-length collection, *Kumukanda* (2015), won the Dylan Thomas Prize and a Somerset Maugham Award. Kayo is a writer and presenter for the music and culture podcast *Decode* on Spotify, poetry editor at Bloomsbury, and Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Durham University. His most recent collection, *A Blood Condition* (2021), was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best Collection, the TS Eliot Prize, and the Costa Poetry Award.

JEREMY

DAVIES

Jeremy Davies is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Leeds. He writes about British Romantic literature and environmental topics. His most recent book is *The Birth of the Anthropocene* (2016, University of California Press).

ELLA

DUFFY

Ella Duffy is the author of *New Hunger* (The Poetry Business, 2020) and *Rootstalk* (Hazel Press, 2020), which was longlisted as a Poetry School Book of the Year 2020. Her latest pamphlet, *Greencombe* (Hazel Press, 2024), was on the London Review Bookshop bestseller list. Her work has appeared in *The Poetry Review*, *The London Magazine*, *The Rialto*, *Ambit* and *Poetry Ireland Review*, among others. She is the editor of botanical poetry anthology, *Seeds & Roots* (Hazel Press, 2022), and has been a guest editor for *Butcher's Dog* and *Magma*.

ANTONY

DUNN

Antony Dunn is a regular tutor for the Poetry School and the Arvon Foundation. He has published four collections of poetry, most recently *Take This One to Bed* (Valley Press, 2018). He has been Poet in Residence at the Ilkley Literature Festival, the University of York, and, currently, the People Powered Press.

MATTHEW

HOLLIS

Matthew Hollis is the author of *Now All Roads Lead to France: The Last Years of Edward Thomas* (2011), winner of the Costa Biography Award, and *The Waste Land: A Biography of a Poem* (2022), a book of the year in the *Financial Times*, *New Statesman*, and *Sunday Times*. *Ground Water*, a poetry collection, was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, 2004; *Earth House* was longlisted for the Laurel Prize for Poetry, 2023.

MATT

HOWARD

Matt Howard is manager of the University of Leeds Poetry Centre. His first collection, *Gall*, was published by The Rialto in 2018 and was winner of the 2018 East Anglian Book Award for Poetry, shortlisted for the Seamus Heaney Centre First Collection Prize in 2019, and won Best First Collection in the inaugural Laurel Prize 2020. After 11 years working for the RSPB, Matt was Douglas Caster Fellow in Poetry at the University of Leeds from 2021-2023. His second collection, *Broadlands*, is published by Bloodaxe.

SARA

HUDSTON

Sara Hudston runs Hazel Press, an independent publisher committed to producing short books using eco-aware methods and materials. Sara is a writer, activist, and longstanding Guardian Country Diarist. Hazel Press, founded in 2020 by Daphne Astor, is named after the hazel

tree, with its strongly rooted magical symbolism, poetic allusions and practical uses. It publishes poetry, essays, and occasional short fiction.

ZAFFAR

KUNIAL

Zaffar Kunial was born in Birmingham and lives in Hebden Bridge. He is a recipient of Yale University's Windham-Campbell Prize and his first poetry collection, *Us*, published by Faber & Faber in 2018, appeared on a number of shortlists including the Costa Poetry Award and the T. S. Eliot Prize. His second collection, *England's Green*, was The Times Poetry Book of the Year and was placed second in the Laurel Prize.

KAREN

MCCARTHY

WOOLF

Born in London to English and Jamaican parents, Karen McCarthy Woolf FRSL is the author of two poetry collections and editor of numerous anthologies including *Mapping the Future*, which was nominated for a Sky Arts Award. A postdoctoral Fulbright Scholar at the UCLA, she was writer in residence at the Promise Institute for Human Rights. Shortlisted for the Forward Felix Dennis and Jerwood Prizes, her debut *An Aviary of Small Birds* was an Observer Book of the Year. Her latest, *Seasonal Disturbances*, was a winner in the inaugural Laurel Prize for ecological poetry.

HELEN

MORT

Helen Mort FRSL is an author from Sheffield, and Professor of Creative Writing at Manchester Metropolitan University. Her collections *Division Street*, *No Map Could Show Them*, and *The Illustrated Woman* are published by Chatto & Windus. Her work has been shortlisted for the T.S. Eliot Prize and the Forward Prize. She has also published a novel, *Black Car Burning* (2019), and her memoir *A Line Above The Sky* (Ebury, 2022), examines the relationship between mountains and motherhood. Her biography of environmental campaigner Ethel Haythornthwaite was published in 2024.

CALEB

PARKIN

Caleb Parkin, Bristol City Poet 2020-22, has poems in *The Guardian*, *The Rialto*, numerous other journals, and was a guest on BBC Radio 4's *Poetry Please*. His debut, *This Fruiting Body* (Nine Arches, 2021) was longlisted for the Laurel Prize. *Mingle*, his second collection, is out in October 2024. He tutors widely, holds an MSc in Creative Writing for Therapeutic Purposes, and is a PhD researcher at University of Exeter with RENEW Biodiversity.

ALYCIA

PIRMOHAMED

Alycia Pirmohamed is the author of the poetry collection *Another Way to Split Water* (Polygon Books and YesYes Books). Her nonfiction debut *A Beautiful and Vital Place* won the 2023 Nan Shepherd Prize for nature writing and is forthcoming with Canongate. Alycia currently teaches on the Creative Writing Master's at the University of Cambridge.

YVONNE

REDDICK

Yvonne Reddick is a poet, nature writer, and environmental filmmaker. She is the author of *Burning Season* (Bloodaxe), winner of the 2023 Laurel Prize for Best First UK Collection of Ecopoetry, and the scholarly books *Ted Hughes: Environmentalist and Ecopoet and Anthropocene Poetry* (Palgrave Macmillan.) She made the film *Searching for Snow Hares*, with filmmaker Aleks Domanski. She is currently working on a film about bees, pollinators, and the wonderful world of tiny creatures.

VERA

TRAPPMANN

Vera Trappmann is Professor of Comparative Employment Relations, University of Leeds, and a member of the Executive Board of Priestley Centre for Climate Futures. Her research focuses on climate change and work. For the last five years, she was Director of

Sustainability at Leeds University Business School. In this role, she was dedicated to increase student engagement with climate action.

EMMA

TROTT

Emma Trott is Lecturer in Contemporary Literature and Convenor of the Environmental Humanities Group, University of Leeds. Her research sits between the environmental humanities and medical humanities, with particular interests in literary representations of plants and animals, creative encounters with the heart, and language in medicine. Her study of contemporary British ecopoetics is forthcoming next year from Routledge.

JOHN

WEDGWOOD

CLARKE

John Wedgwood Clarke is Professor in Poetry at the University of Exeter. He has published three collections of poems, *Ghost Pot* (2013), *Landfill* (2017), and *Boy Thing* (2023). He regularly leads and collaborates on interdisciplinary projects funded by AHRC, NERC, ACE, Leverhulme, Natural England, and others. His latest work focuses on the cultural significance of bogs and their ecological complexity.

JOHN

WHALE

John Whale is Director of the University of Leeds Poetry Centre. His two collections of poetry are *Waterloo Teeth* (2010) and *Frieze* (2015). The former was shortlisted for the Forward Best First Collection Award in 2010. He is managing editor of *Stand* magazine.

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SIMON POET	ARMITAGE LAUREATE	ALICE MARKETING	MULLEN MANAGER, PBS
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