

[Heidi James](#) is the author of three novels. *So the Doves* will be published by Bluemoose Books in August 2017. *Wounding* was published by Bluemoose Books in April, 2014. She was a finalist for the Cinnamon Poetry Collection Prize. Her novella *The Mesmerist's Daughter* (published by Neon Press in April 2015) won the Saboteur Award. Her novel *Carbon*, was published by Blatt and is published in Spanish by El Tercer Nombre.

[Mona Arshi](#) worked as a human rights lawyer for a decade before she received a Masters in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia. She went on to win the inaugural Magma Poetry competition in 2011 as well as the Troubadour International Prize and the Manchester Creative writing prize in 2014. Her debut collection *Small Hands* won the Forward Prize for best first collection in 2015. Mona is the 2016-2017 Arvon/Jerwood poetry mentor.

[Martin Ouvry](#) worked as a musician in Europe and America before studying English and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. His awards include a final year prize for outstanding achievement (UEA, BA), the Alumni Association Prize for Fiction (UEA, MA), an Arts Council Writers' Award, a Hawthornden Fellowship and a Wingate Scholarship. His fiction has been published in various anthologies and magazines, among them *New Writing*, *A Little Nest of Pedagogues* (in dual English and Chinese texts), *The London Magazine* and *Esquire*. His story 'Forget-Me-Not' was longlisted for BBC Radio 4's Opening Lines. His play *Shakespeare: the Puppet Show* ran throughout the V&A's Shakespeare Festival in April 2014. He has written three novels and is at work on a fourth. Martin has taught creative writing for the Arts Council England, the British Council, City University, the Kingston Writing School, and UEA. He has reviewed books for the *Sunday Times*, the *FT* and the *Observer*. Lee Brackstone has written of his fiction: 'I would struggle to find a writer of comparable talent in Martin's generation.' The late Deborah Rogers wrote: 'I think his is a voice of true originality and distinction, and one that will in time emerge as a major player in a new generation of British novelists.'

[Alexander Masters](#) is the author of *A Life Discarded: 148 diaries found in a skip*; *Simon, the genius in my basement* and *Stuart, a life backwards*, which won the Hawthornden Prize and the Guardian First Book Award.

[Sinead Keegan](#) is a writer, blogger, lecturer and editor. Her blog Finding Home has been short and longlisted annually for Blog Awards Ireland 'Best Arts and Culture Blog' and 'Best of the Diaspora' for five years running. She is co-editor and founder of *all the sins*, a quarterly digital arts publication that embraces the ability of the internet to increase artistic discourse and to push all art past accepted boundaries. She is the founder and coordinator of the Stories of SW1 annual writing competition. She has an MFA in creative writing and lectures in creative and critical writing at Kingston University. Her poetry and short stories have been published in print and online.

[Judith Watts](#) is Course Leader of the accredited Publishing Masters at Kingston University and Managing Editor of Kingston University Press. She has a wide range of industry experience, is an author in the Hodder Teach Yourself Writing series and holds an MFA in Creative Writing. She regularly helps new writers send their work out in to a world where content is abundant and attention is scarce – and where writers, publishers and readers need to communicate effectively.

[Julia Stuart](#) is an award-winning journalist and bestselling novelist. Her first novel *The Matchmaker of Périgord* was longlisted for Spread the Word: Books to Talk About 2008 and has been adapted for film. Her second *The Tower, the Zoo, and the Tortoise* was published in 2010 and became a New York Times bestseller, a national bestseller, and an NPR Best Book of the Year. It was picked for the Obamas' holiday reading. *The Pigeon Pie Mystery*, published in 2012, was selected as a 'Book of the Week', as well as an 'Unputdownable Mystery', by Oprah.com. Her latest novel *The Last Pearl Fisher of Scotland* was published by Vintage in August 2016. A. L. Kennedy said "*The Last Pearl Fisher of Scotland* is a gently comic, gently tragic novel, full of lyricism, humanity and the pearl that is love. Read it at once."