



Kate Clanchy, Chloe Aridjis, Owen Sheers to judge Rathbones Folio Prize 2019

7 November 2018: Today, Kate Clanchy (chair), Chloe Aridjis and Owen Sheers were announced as the judges for the 2019 Rathbones Folio Prize. The prize is governed by an international academy of distinguished writers and critics, ensuring unique quality and consistency in its nomination and judging process. It is open to fiction, non-fiction and poetry and is awarded to the best work of literature published in a given year. This is the third year of partnership between the prize and its sponsor, Rathbone Investment Management, and the winner will be announced at a gala ceremony on 20 May 2019 at the British Library.

Last year's winner was Richard Lloyd Parry for *Ghosts of the Tsunami*, described by the *TLS* as 'a breathtaking, extraordinary work of non-fiction.' Previous winners of the prize are George Saunders, Akhil Sharma and Hisham Matar.

Kate Clanchy, 2019 chair of the judges for the Rathbones Folio Prize, said: 'So much has changed recently in the world of books – so many new, diverse voices have made themselves heard, so many genres have burst their banks – that it is easy to feel bewildered. So I feel lucky to be reading for the Rathbones Folio Prize: I have a list of nominations from over 250 of my fellow writers – the people who have the keenest eye out for the fresh and the urgent – as my guide, and I am not confined by genre because this prize, uniquely, recognises fiction, non-fiction, poetry and the ever-growing in-between. In a few months' time, I will have the further privilege of discussing the books of 2018 with my fellow judges, and of rewarding something truly excellent. I'm excited.'

About the judges:

Kate Clanchy (chair) grew up in Scotland but now lives in Oxford. She has won a Forward Prize for her poetry, the Writer's Guild Award for her memoir *Antigona and Me* and the BBC National Short Story Award. Her novel, *Meeting the English*, was shortlisted for the Costa Prize. She writes regularly for radio and reviews novels for the *Guardian*. Kate has taught in schools for 30 years and the acclaimed anthology *England, Poems from a School*, and her upcoming book of essays, *Some Kids I Taught and What They Taught Me*, both draw on this experience. Kate was awarded an MBE in 2018 for services to literature.



Kate Clanchy
photo credit: Alexander James

Chloe Aridjis is a Mexican writer based in London and the author of three novels: *Book of Clouds*, which won the Prix du Premier Roman Etranger in France, *Asunder*, and *Sea Monsters* (to be published February 2019). She writes for various art journals and was a guest curator at Tate Liverpool. In 2014 she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and she has been a judge for the Frieze Writer's Prize and the White Review Short Story Prize.



Chloe Aridjis

Owen Sheers is an author, poet and playwright. Winner of the 2018 Wilfred Owen Poetry award, he has published two collections of poetry, *The Blue Book* and *Skirrid Hill*, which won a Somerset Maugham Award. His debut prose work, *The Dust Diaries*, won the Welsh Book of the Year and was short listed for the RSL Ondaatje Prize. His first novel, *Resistance*, was translated into eleven languages and adapted into a film. His most recent novel, *I Saw A Man*, was shortlisted for the Prix Etranger. He has been a judge for the Costa Awards, the Guardian First Book

Award, the Dylan Thomas Prize and the BBC Short Story Award. He is currently Professor in Creativity at Swansea University.



Owen Sheers

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Notes for editors:

The Rathbones Folio Prize was established in 2013 as the first major English language book prize open to writers from around the world. It is the only literary prize in which all the books considered for the prize are selected and judged by an academy of peers. When new sponsors, Rathbone Investment Management, came on board, the prize was expanded to include all works of literature, regardless of form. Previous winners were George Saunders in 2014, Akhil Sharma in 2015, Hisham Matar in 2017 and Richard Lloyd Parry in 2018.

The Folio Academy is a community of 260+ writers who represent excellence in literature and who may be called upon to comment on literary matters in the media, to appear at festivals and public events and to volunteer to mentor young writers in association with the charity First Story. Academy members include Margaret Atwood, Carol Ann Duffy, Ian McEwan, Salman Rushdie and Zadie Smith; recently recruited members include William Dalrymple, Amanda Foreman, Andrew Marr, Jon Ronson and Alex Ross.

Rathbone Investment Management is one of the UK's largest and longest-established providers of high-quality, personalised discretionary investment services. It manages £47.3 billion* of funds (as of 30 September 2018) for individuals, charities and trustees, and is part of Rathbone Brothers Plc, an independent company with a listing on the London Stock Exchange. Investment management services are offered in Aberdeen, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Chichester, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Kendal, Liverpool, London, Lymington, Newcastle and Winchester. Offshore investment management services are offered by subsidiary Rathbone Investment Management International in Jersey.

*Includes funds managed by Rathbone Unit Trust Management

The Literature Prize/Folio Academy Foundation is a registered charity committed to bringing the most outstanding works of English language literature to public attention through the awarding of the Prize and other initiatives, including the Rathbones Folio Mentorships. Overseen by its trustees, the Foundation seeks to engage readers and writers throughout the English-speaking world in cultural debate, the celebration and sustainment of the art of literature – which it believes has the capacity to enrich and change people’s lives – and the discovery and nurturing of new voices.