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RATHBONES FOLIO PRIZE EXPANDS INTO CHANGING UK LITERARY PRIZE LANDSCAPE WITH NEW FORMAT

Ali Smith, Jackie Kay and Guy Gunaratne are the powerhouse trio of judges who will pioneer a new, expanded format for 'the writers' prize', which makes more effective use of its unique multi-genre reach

The prize, which since 2017, has celebrated all works of literature regardless of form and is generously sponsored by Rathbone Investment Management, has decided to introduce three distinct shortlists – for Fiction, Non-Fiction and Poetry. Each category winner, selected from a shortlist of four, will receive a £2,000 prize and, as a Rathbones Folio Prize Finalist, will be entered into the competition to be chosen as the overall Rathbones Folio Prize winner, receiving an additional £30,000.



Ali Smith



Jackie Kay



Guy Gunaratne

Recent winners include Colm Tóibín (Fiction) in 2022, Carmen Maria Machado (Non-Fiction) in 2021, Valeria Luiselli (Fiction) in 2020, Raymond Antrobus (Poetry) in 2019, Richard Lloyd-Parry (Non-Fiction) in 2018, Hisham Matar (Non-Fiction) in 2017, Akhil Sharma (Fiction) in 2015, and George Saunders (Fiction) in 2014.

The prize decided to refresh its format to address the changing landscape of literary prizes, including the recent discontinuation of awards such as The Costa Book Awards, and the impact this has for writers. Literary prizes are vital for writers and authors, celebrating the enormous achievements of both established and emerging writers, and providing writers a platform and crucial support for their work.

By creating a more focussed structure, and shining a light on four books from each of the genres it covers, the Prize offers readers a clearer and broader range of recommendations – and celebrates the 12 most exceptional and exciting books across each format in a given year. The Rathbones Folio Prize is unique in being the only prize in which all the books considered for the prize are selected and judged by an academy of peers. All titles considered for the Prize will continue to be nominated by the Folio Academy, which is comprised of more than 300 of the most outstanding writers working today (and which is the body from which the judges are also selected). The Prize will continue working closely with booksellers and bookshops to ensure ongoing support and placement for shortlisted and winning titles in bookshops, and through bespoke, themed events both in the lead-up to the prize ceremony and throughout the year.

Academy members will be asked for their nominations in September 2022, category shortlists will be revealed in a reception at the offices of sponsors Rathbone Investment Management in early 2023 and the category and overall winners will be announced at a Prize Ceremony at the British Library in March 2023.

Executive Director Minna Fry and Co-founder and Chair of the Prize Andrew Kidd, said: *‘We and our brilliantly supportive sponsors Rathbones are hugely excited about this new refinement and expansion of the existing format for the Rathbones Folio Prize. It will significantly aid what has always been this Prize’s ultimate aim: to help publishers and booksellers to put more of the best books being published today – as chosen by writers themselves (a feature unique to this prize) – into the hands of more readers.’*

The Judges

Ali Smith (Chair) is the author of many novels including *How to be both*, *Artful*, *There but for the, The Accidental*, *Hotel World*, the Seasonal Quartet series and *Companion piece*. *Hotel World* was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and the Orange Prize. *The Accidental* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and the Orange Prize. *How to be both* won the Bailey’s Prize, the Goldsmiths Prize and the Costa Novel of the Year Award, and it was shortlisted for the Folio Prize and Man Booker Prize. *Autumn* was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize 2017 and *Winter* was shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2018.

Jackie Kay was born in Edinburgh. She was the third modern Makar, the Scottish poet laureate, from 2016 to 2021. A poet, novelist and writer of short stories, she has enjoyed great acclaim for her work for both adults and children. Her first novel, *Trumpet*, won the Authors’ Club First Novel Award and the Guardian Fiction Prize. She is also the author of three collections of stories, *Why Don’t You Stop Talking*, *Wish I Was Here*, and *Reality, Reality*; two poetry collections, *Fiere and Bantam*; a play, *The Lamplighter*; and her multi-award-winning memoir, *Red Dust Road*. She is Professor of Creative Writing at Newcastle University and divides her time between Glasgow and Manchester, where she was Chancellor of the University of Salford from 2014 to 2021.

Guy Gunaratne is a novelist based between London and Malmö. Their first novel *In Our Mad and Furious City* won the International Dylan Thomas Prize (2019), the Jhalak Prize (2019) and Authors Club Award (2019). It was also shortlisted for the Goldsmiths Prize and longlisted for the Booker Prize, as well as the Orwell Prize for Political Fiction. Guy was appointed the Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts at Trinity College, Cambridge (2019- 2022). They have also served

on various literary prize judging panels including the Goldsmiths Prize (2019) and the Republic of Consciousness Prize (2021). Their second novel *Mister, Mister* will be published 2023.

The Prize

The 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 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 in 2017 the prize was expanded to include all works of literature, regardless of form.

The winner for 2022 was Colm Tóibín (Fiction), for his novel *The Magician* (Viking), a haunting, intimate portrait of the exiled German Nobel winner Thomas Mann. The Rathbones Folio Prize 2022 was celebrated earlier this year with a series of events for shortlisted authors hosted by 5x15, and increased media recognition from BBC Radio 4 Today, Times Radio, RTE Arena, *The Guardian*, *Granta*, *The Irish Times* and more.

The Rathbones Folio Prize is borderless and open to all genres – fiction, non-fiction, and poetry – which means it reflects a greater diversity and variety of voices present in our literary culture and society as a whole.

The Rathbones Folio Prize is the flagship of the Literature / Folio Prize Foundation, which also includes the **Rathbones Folio Prize Mentorships** for aspiring young writers and Rathbones Folio Prize Sessions at literary festivals across the UK.

Previous winners were George Saunders (Fiction) in 2014, Akhil Sharma (Fiction) in 2015, Hisham Matar (Non-Fiction) in 2017, Richard Lloyd-Parry (Non-Fiction) in 2018, Raymond Antrobus (Poetry) in 2019, Valeria Luiselli (Fiction) in 2020, and Carmen Maria Machado (Non-Fiction) in 2021.

Rathbones Folio has been steadily increasing its presence at literary sessions throughout the year at Literary Festivals as well as at bespoke events for Rathbones clients. In 2022 alone, the prize will sponsor events at Edinburgh, Cheltenham, Chalke Valley, Jersey, Words on the Water, Aye Write, Chichester Culture Spark Festivals featuring authors from the Folio Academy including judges and shortlistees.

Branding for the prize will this year include point of sale for bookshop sections and for shortlisted book titles.

Join the conversation via: rathbonesfolioprize.com | [@RathbonesFolio](https://twitter.com/RathbonesFolio)

Notes to Editors

About The Folio Academy | The Folio Academy is a community of 300+ writers, who represent excellence in literature. Academicians include: Margaret Atwood, Carol Ann Duffy, Ian McEwan, Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith and Sir Tom Stoppard. Between them, Academicians have won thousands of literary awards, including 16 Man Booker Prizes. Academicians may be called upon to comment on literature matters in the media, to appear at festivals and public events, and may

volunteer to mentor young writers in the Rathbones Folio Mentorships scheme, run in association with the charity First Story, which runs creative writing residencies in secondary schools serving low-income communities.

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

About Rathbone Investment Management | Rathbone Investment Management is one of the UK's leading providers of high-quality discretionary investment management services. It manages over £68.2 billion* of funds for individuals, charities and trustees, and is part of Rathbones Group Plc, an independently owned 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.

**As at 31 December 2021, includes funds managed by Rathbone Unit Trust Management*