

Press release
Embargoed until 00.00 5 February 2019

Judges announced for Gordon Burn Prize 2019

Prize opens for entries until Thursday 14 March

The author **AA Dhand**, artist **Gary Hume**, writer and journalist **Miranda Sawyer** and musician **Rachel Unthank** will judge the Gordon Burn Prize 2019. The prize is now open for entry until Thursday 14 March 2019.

The Gordon Burn Prize was launched in 2012 to remember the late author of novels including *Fullalove* and *Born Yesterday: The News as a Novel*, and non-fiction including *Happy Like Murderers: The Story of Fred and Rosemary West* and *Best and Edwards: Football, Fame and Oblivion*.

The Gordon Burn Prize, run in partnership by the Gordon Burn Trust, New Writing North, Faber & Faber and Durham Book Festival, seeks to celebrate the writing of those whose work follows in his footsteps.

The prize has a reputation for recognising literature that pushes boundaries and crosses genres. Jesse Ball won the Gordon Burn Prize in 2018 for his novel *Census*, which weaves together elements of memoir and fable in a story inspired by the life of Ball's brother Abram, who had Down's syndrome and passed away at the age of 24.

The full list of winners of the prize is:

Jesse Ball, *Census* (2018)
Denise Mina, *The Long Drop* (2017)
David Szalay, *All That Man Is* (2016)
Dan Davies, *In Plain Sight: The Life and Lies of Jimmy Savile* (2015)
Paul Kingsnorth, *The Wake* (2014)
Benjamin Myers, *Pig Iron* (2013)

A literary polymath, Gordon Burn wrote about subjects as seemingly disparate as serial killers, celebrity, sport and art, often blurring the line between fact and fiction. His approach was bold, applying a journalistic tenacity and rigour to the fictional process, while using fictional narrative techniques in his factual reporting. His writing remains as fresh and extraordinary today as when his debut novel, the Whitbread Prize-winning *Alma Cogan*, was published in 1991.

The Gordon Burn Prize is now open for entry for published books written in the English language. The winner will be announced on 10 October 2019 at Durham Book Festival, a Durham County Council festival produced by New Writing North.

The winning writer will receive a cheque for £5,000 and the opportunity to undertake a writing retreat of up to three months at Gordon Burn's cottage in the Scottish borders.

Judges' comments:

AA Dhand said: 'I'm thrilled to be on the judging panel for this esteemed prize, not only to celebrate literary talent and engaging stories but also because I am a huge fan of the late Gordon Burn's writing.'

Miranda Sawyer said: 'I'm really excited to be on the judging panel for the Gordon Burn Prize. Gordon was a vivid and brilliant contemporary writer who dared to blur the lines between fiction and non-fiction, who took New Journalism and shook it by the neck until it howled. I can't wait to read the entries.'

Rachel Unthank said: 'I find reading a huge source of inspiration, comfort and exploration and so I am very excited and humbled to be asked to be a judge for the Gordon Burn Prize and go on those unexpected journeys that new books inevitably take you on.'

The winner of the Gordon Burn Prize will be announced at Durham Book Festival, a Durham County Council Festival produced by New Writing North, on Thursday 10 October 2019.

--Ends --

For all media enquiries, please contact Laura Fraine at New Writing North
laurafraine@newwritingnorth.com 07411 164 837/ 0191 204 8850

Notes to Editors:

The Gordon Burn Prize seeks to reward a published title (fiction or non-fiction) written in the English language, which in the opinion of the judges most successfully represents the spirit and sensibility of Gordon's literary methods: novels which dare to enter history and interrogate the past; writers of non-fiction brave enough to recast characters and historical events to create a new and vivid reality. Literature that challenges perceived notions of genre and makes us think again about just what it is that we are reading.

The prize is open to work written in World English by writers of any nationality or descent who at the time of entering are permanently resident in the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland or the United States of America. The prize is open to books published between 1 July 2018 and 1 July 2019. Publishers are permitted to submit up to six titles per imprint. Works of translation, books for children and poetry are not eligible for the prize.

Full entry guidelines are available on the Gordon Burn Prize website
<http://gordonburnprize.com>

Judges' biographies

AA Dhand

AA Dhand was raised in Bradford and spent his youth observing the city from behind the counter of a small convenience store. After qualifying as a pharmacist, he worked in London and travelled extensively before returning to Bradford to start his own business and begin writing. The history, diversity and darkness of the city have inspired his Harry Virdee novels.

His novels have been selected for Read Regional and World Book Night, and his debut *Streets of Darkness* is currently being developed for screen by a UK broadcaster.

He still works full-time as a pharmacist and writes late at night into the early hours.

Gary Hume

Gary Hume is known for figurative and abstract paintings on aluminium panels, which often feature startling colour combinations made with paints purchased premixed from a hardware store.

Born 1962, he attended Goldsmith's College in London. He represented Britain at the Venice Biennale in 1999 and the Bienal de São Paulo in 1996, the same year he was nominated for the Turner Prize. His work was the subject of a one-person exhibition at Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, in 1999, and in 2001 he was elected to the Royal Academy. Monographic shows of Hume's work were organised at the Kestnervesellschaft, Hannover, and the Kunsthaus Bregenz, Austria, in 2004, and Modern Art Oxford mounted a survey show of his Door paintings in 2008. In 2013, Tate Britain presented a focused survey spanning Hume's career.

Since then numerous gallery exhibitions have taken place as well as installation of public art projects and participation in museum shows worldwide. An exhibition of new work will open at Matthew Marks Gallery in Los Angeles in Jan 2019. Hume is represented by Matthew Marks Gallery in the US and Sprüth Magers across Europe. He lives and works in London and Accord, New York.

Miranda Sawyer

Miranda Sawyer is an English journalist and broadcaster. Besides her features and radio criticism for the *Observer*, her writing has appeared in *GQ*, *Vogue* and the *Guardian*. She is a regular arts critic in print, on television and on radio. Her recent book, *Out of Time*, was published by Fourth Estate/HarperCollins. She is currently writing her third book, entitled *Long Term*, about long-term relationships. She

broadcasts on Radio 4 and for *The Culture Show* (BBC TV). She is on the board of Tate Members, the South London Gallery and Sound Women.

Rachel Unthank

Brought up on Tyneside by Teeside parents, Rachel is a member of The Unthanks. The Unthanks are a folk group known for their eclectic approach in combining traditional English folk, particularly Northumbrian folk music, with other musical genres. Their debut album, *Cruel Sister*, was *Mojo* magazine's Folk Album of the Year in 2005; in 2008 they were nominated for the Mercury Music Prize; and their album *Mount the Air*, released in 2015, won in the best album category at the 2016 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards. Outside of The Unthanks, Rachel has presented television programmes on traditional dance for BBC4, visited Ethiopia with Damon Albarn's Africa Express and is currently working on a project with Maximo Park's Paul Smith.