

Elaine Feeney



Photo Credit Julia Monard

Elaine Feeney was born in the West of Ireland and lives in Athenry. She published her first chapbook, *Indiscipline* in 2007, and has since published three collections of poetry, *Where's Katie?* (2010), *The Radio Was Gospel* (2014) and *Rise* (2017) with Salmon Publishing.

Feeney was commissioned in 2016 to write a national screen and stage piece, *WRONGHEADED* by the Liz Roche Company, which has toured internationally since its first run at Tiger Dublin Fringe Festival. She was Poetry Ireland's Poetry Ambassador in 2018.

Feeney writes about national identity, institutions and particularly women in Ireland. She teaches English & History at St. Jarlath's College for Boys, Tuam, Creative Writing & Poetry at the National University of Ireland, Galway and she is the Creative Director of the Tuam Oral History Project at the same university, working with survivors of the Tuam Mother and Baby Home to archive their narrative.

Feeney's work has been widely published and anthologized including, *Poetry Review*, *The Stinging Fly*, *Oxford Poetry*, *Poetry Ireland*, *The Irish Times*, *The Manchester Review*, *Stonecutter Journal* and *Coppernickel*.

Martina Devlin



Author and journalist Martina Devlin has written 10 books. Her latest is *Truth & Dare*, a short story collection in which she brings to life some of the women who shaped Ireland – from Maud Gonne to Countess Markievicz to Hanna Sheehy Skeffington. Her novels include *About Sisterland* set in the future in

a world ruled by women and *The House Where It Happened* about Ireland's last witchcraft trial.

Her work has won a number of prizes including the Royal Society of Literature's VS Pritchett Memorial Prize and a Hennessy Literary Prize, while she has been shortlisted three times for the Irish Book Awards. She writes a weekly current affairs column for the *Irish Independent* and has been named National Newspapers of Ireland commentator of the year. She is a PhD candidate at Trinity College Dublin researching Somerville and Ross.

Join Us

Íontas Theatre, Castleblayney
Friday 27th September 2019

Tickets are FREE but limited.

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MONAGHAN COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE

presents

Readers Evening:

New Voices
Celebrating
Contemporary Irish Writing



Friday 27th September 2019

at 7.30pm

Íontas Theatre, Castleblayney

New Voices

Celebrating Contemporary Irish Writing

Monaghan County Libraries in partnership with Iontas Arts Centre invite you to our Readers Evening event - to promote and celebrate the joy of reading and the authors who fill our days and nights with colour, characters and challenge.

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Mike McCormack



Award winning Mike McCormack was born in London in 1965, but grew up in Sligo, Ireland. His first collection of highly imaginative short stories *Getting It In The Head* was published by Jonathan Cape in 1996. The book won the Rooney Prize and was chosen as a New York Times Notable Book of the Year. This was followed in 1998 by his first novel *Crowe's Requiem* a romantic and gothic fairy tale. In 2005 *Notes from a Coma* was published and was shortlisted for the Irish Book of the Year Award. In 2010, John Waters in *The Irish Times* described it as "the greatest Irish novel of the decade just ended". A second collection of short stories *Forensic Songs* was published by Lilliput in 2012.

Solar Bones was published by Tramp Press in 2016 to widespread critical acclaim. The single novel-length sentence story which takes place on All Souls' Day in Louisburgh, Co Mayo went on to win the coveted the £10,000 Goldsmiths Prize in November of that year and The Eason Book Club Novel of the Year at the Bord Gáis Energy Irish Book Awards. It was also an *Irish Times* Book Club Choice and was Longlisted for the 2017 Man Booker Prize and for the European Literature Prize 2018. In June 2018 the book went on to win the prestigious €100,000 International Dublin Literary Award, the world's most lucrative literary prize for a single novel published in English. The book has also been translated into ten languages while UK rights have been sold to Canongate and the US rights to Soho Press.

Mike has also written the screenplay for *The Terms*, based on his short story, which was adapted into an award-winning short film directed by Johnny O'Reilly. He was awarded a Civitella Ranieri Fellowship in 2007 and has been the recipient of several Arts Council Bursaries. In May 2018 he was elected as a member of Aosdána, the Irish association of artists. Mike lives in Galway with his wife Maeve and young son.

Sinead Gleeson

Sinead Gleeson is a writer and editor whose essays have appeared in *Granta*, *Winter Papers*, *Gorse* and *Banshee* and her short stories can be found in the anthologies *Being Various: New Irish Writing* (Faber, May 2019), *Looking at the Stars* and *Repeal the 8th*. She is the editor of three short anthologies, including *The Long Gaze Back: an Anthology of Irish Women Writers* (2015) and *The Glass Shore: Short Stories by Women Writers from the North of Ireland* (2016), both of which won Best Irish Published Book at the Irish Book Awards. *The Art of the Glimpse: 100 Irish Short Stories* will be published in 2020 by Head of Zeus.



Photo Credit Bríd O'Donovan

Her debut collection of essays, *Constellations: Reflections from Life* was published by Picador this year 2019, and focuses on the body, illness, motherhood, art and writing. 'Sinead Gleeson has changed the Irish literary landscape, through her advocacy for the female voice. In *Constellations*, we finally hear her own voice, and it comes from the blood and bones of her body's history. Sinead Gleeson is an absolute force: if you want to know where passion and tenacity are born, read this book.' Anne Enright. Sinead is currently working on a novel.

Ian Maleney

Ian Maleney is a writer living and working in Dublin. His work has appeared in *The Guardian*, *The Dublin Review*, *Esquire*, and *The New Statesman*. He is the non-fiction editor at *The Stinging Fly*, and the founding editor of Fallow Media, an online journal for interdisciplinary publications.



Photo Credit Gareth Smyth

His debut essay collection, *Minor Monuments*, was published by Tramp Press in March 2019. Set around a small family farm on the edge of a bog, a few miles from the river Shannon, *Minor Monuments* is a collection of essays unfolding from the landscape of the Irish midlands. Taking in the physical and philosophical power of sound and music, and the effects of Alzheimer's disease on a family, Ian Maleney questions the nature of home, memory, and the complex nature of belonging. A thought-provoking and quietly devastating meditation on family and loss.