

MEDIA RELEASE | **STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 7.30PM GMT 09 FEBRUARY 2022**

## 2022 RATHBONES FOLIO PRIZE REVEALS ILLUSTRIOUS SHORTLIST OF WIDE-RANGING AND CELEBRATED GLOBAL WRITERS, ALONGSIDE NEW UK TALENT



Natasha Brown



Damon Galgut



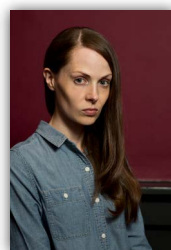
Selima Hill



Philip Hoare



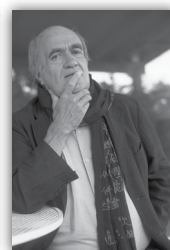
Claire Keegan



Gwendoline Riley



Sunjeev Sahota



Colm Tóibín

From deeply moving and powerful stories of complex family dynamics, to emotionally driven narratives on love and society, **the 2022 Rathbones Folio Prize shortlist** is comprised of works by celebrated writers speaking to personal and profound themes including race, religion, family and love.

This year's Rathbones Folio Prize recognises internationally renowned talent from the UK, Ireland and South Africa, as well as celebrating a blistering debut novelist. The judges have chosen books by four women and four men to be in contention for the **£30,000 prize**, which recognises the **best fiction, non-fiction and poetry written in English from around the world**. Seven out of the eight writers are based in the UK and Ireland, and their books come from a breadth of publishers, including two titles each for Penguin General and Vintage.

**Chair of the Judges, Tessa Hadley said:** "We're so excited by our shortlist for the Rathbones Folio Prize this year. Our eight books were chosen from a fairly dazzling longlist of twenty; the books under consideration are all nominated by writers, and so the quality of the work is very high. So many good books, prose fiction and poetry and non-fiction – so difficult to weigh one against another. We all brought certain passions to the table when we met. There were just a few books that had seized us from the first page and hadn't let us down until the last, and then seemed even richer and larger on a second reading."

2022 SHORTLIST

### Natasha Brown

*Assembly* (Hamish Hamilton/Penguin General)

### The Promise

*Damon Galgut*  
(Chatto & Windus/Vintage)

### Selima Hill

*Men Who Feed Pigeons*  
(Bloodaxe)

### Philip Hoare

*Albert and the Whale* (4th Estate)

### Claire Keegan

*Small Things Like These*  
(Faber)

### Gwendoline Riley

*My Phantoms*  
(Granta)

### Sunjeev Sahota

*China Room*  
(Harvill Secker/Vintage)

### Colm Tóibín

*The Magician*  
(Viking/Penguin General)

The Rathbones Folio Prize – known as the “writers’ prize” – rewards the best work of literature of the year, regardless of form. It is the only award governed by an international academy of distinguished writers, ensuring a unique quality and consistency in the nomination and judging process.

The 2022 shortlist ranges from **Natasha Brown’s** debut *Assembly* – a novel about identity, class, and race – to three-time Booker shortlisted, and previously Folio Prize-shortlisted, author **Colm Tóibín**, who in *The Magician* writes a biographical novel about war, family, secrets and the winds of change. In *Albert and the Whale*, noted author **Philip Hoare** explores the intersection between life, art and the sea through the life of Albrecht Dürer, whilst poet **Selima Hill’s** *Men Who Feed Pigeons* brings together seven contrasting but complementary poem sequences relating different kinds of women’s relationships with men.

*China Room* by **Sunjeev Sahota** follows a young bride in rural Punjab and is a heart-stopping story of love, family, survival and betrayal, whereas **Damon Galgut’s** *The Promise* takes readers to South Africa, charting the crash and burn of a white family with a failed promise to their black maid.

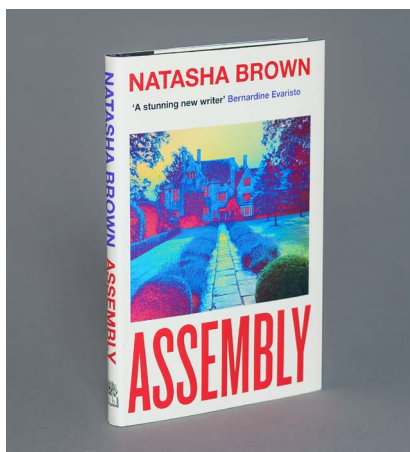
**Claire Keegan’s** *Small Things Like These* is set in Catholic Ireland and is a story of courage, quiet heroism, and hope; and finally, *My Phantoms* by **Gwendoline Riley** is a novel about the connection between a semi-estranged mother and daughter and the damage done over the course of a life.

The winner of the Rathbones Folio Prize will be announced in a ceremony at the British Library on **Wednesday 23 March**. The shortlisted authors will also take part in an event series with **5x15**. Further details will be released in due course.

Last year, American author **Carmen Maria Machado** was awarded the 2021 Rathbones Folio Prize for her unflinchingly honest memoir of domestic abuse in a female relationship, *In the Dream House* (Serpent’s Tail/Graywolf Press). The 2022 winner will also join previous winners **Valeria Luiselli** (2020), **Raymond Antrobus** (2019), **Richard Lloyd Parry** (2018), **Hisham Matar** (2017), **Akhil Sharma** (2015) and **George Saunders** (2014).

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

## Notes to Editors



### Natasha Brown

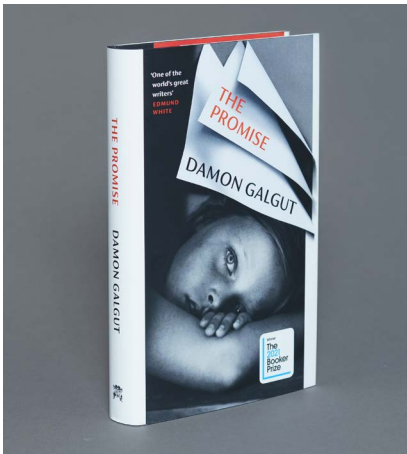
#### *Assembly*

(Hamish Hamilton/Penguin General)

The narrator of *Assembly* is a Black British woman. She is preparing to attend a lavish garden party at her boyfriend’s family estate, set deep in the English countryside. At the same time, she is considering the carefully assembled pieces of herself. As the minutes tick down and the future beckons, she can’t escape the question: is it time to take it all apart? *Assembly* is a story about the stories we live within – those of race and class, safety and

freedom, winners and losers. And it is about one woman daring to take control of her own story, even at the cost of her life.

**Natasha Brown** has worked in financial services for the last ten years and studied Maths at Cambridge University. She developed *Assembly* after receiving a 2019 London Writers Award in the literary fiction category and she lives in London.



## Damon Galgut

### *The Promise*

(Chatto & Windus/Vintage)

*The Promise* charts the crash and burn of a white South African family, living on a farm outside Pretoria. In this story of a family diminished, sharp and tender emotional truths hit home. Confident, deft and quietly powerful, it is a taut novel from a masterful writer.

**Damon Galgut** has twice been shortlisted for the Booker Prize and he won it in 2021 for *The Promise*. He has been nominated for the Walter Scott Prize and Impac Award and his fiction has been published in sixteen languages. The film based on his novel, *The Quarry*, starring Michael Shannon, was released in 2020. Damon Galgut lives and works in Cape Town.



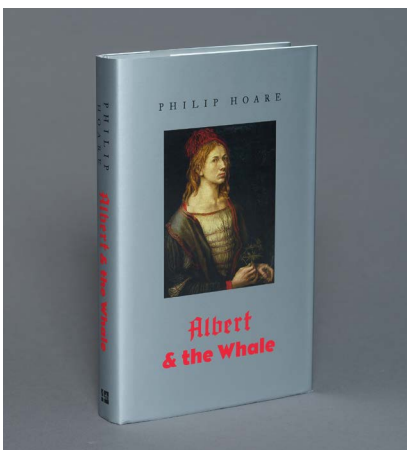
## Selima Hill

### *Men Who Feed Pigeons*

(Bloodaxe)

*Men Who Feed Pigeons* brings together seven contrasting but complementary poem sequences by 'this brilliant lyricist of human darkness' (Fiona Sampson) relating to men and different kinds of women's relationships with men.

**Selima Hill** has been shortlisted for all three of the UK's major poetry awards: the Forward Prize, T.S. Eliot Prize, and Whitbread/Costa Poetry Prize. *Bunny* (2001), won the Whitbread Poetry Award. She lives in Dorset.



## Philip Hoare

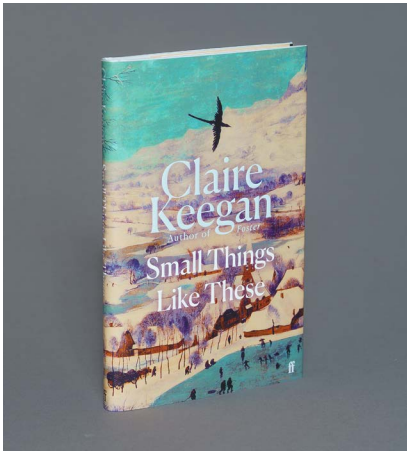
### *Albert and the Whale*

(4<sup>th</sup> Estate)

An illuminating exploration of the intersection between life, art and the sea from the award-winning author of *Leviathan*.

**Philip Hoare** is the author of eight works of non-fiction, including *Leviathan, or The Whale*, which won the 2009 Samuel Johnson

Prize for non-fiction. Hoare is also an experienced broadcaster, a Visiting Fellow at Southampton University, and Leverhulme Artist-in-Residence at The Marine Institute, Plymouth University, which awarded him an honorary doctorate in 2011. He lives in Southampton.



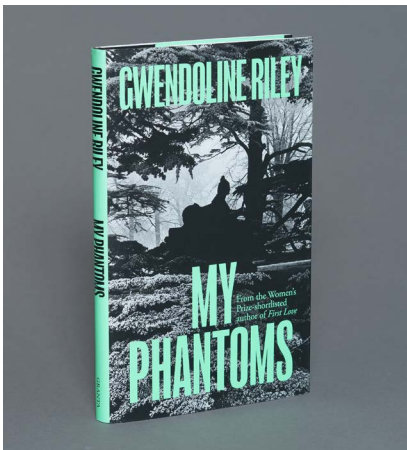
### Claire Keegan

#### *Small Things Like These*

(Faber)

An exquisite winter tale of courage and its cost, set in Catholic Ireland, this is an unforgettable story of hope, quiet heroism and tenderness.

**Claire Keegan** was brought up on a farm in Ireland. Her stories have won numerous awards and are translated into more than 20 languages. Foster was named by *The Times* as one of the top 50 novels to be published in the 21st Century. Keegan now holds the Briana Staunton Fellowship at Pembroke College, Cambridge



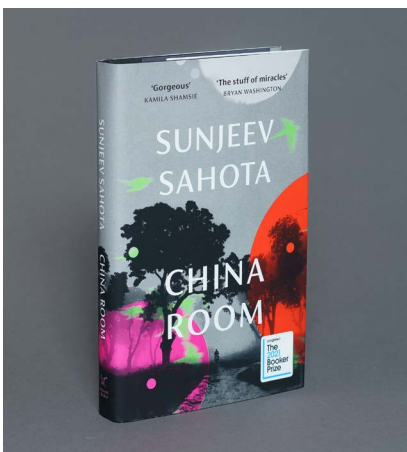
### Gwendoline Riley

#### *My Phantoms*

(Granta)

An emotionally complex, caustic novel about the bond between two people, which will make you question everything you thought you knew about family, love and building a life.

**Gwendoline Riley** is the author of *First Love*, which was shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction, the Goldsmiths Prize, the Dylan Thomas Prize and the Gordon Burn Prize, and which won the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize; as well as *Cold Water*, *Sick Notes*, *Joshua Spassky* and *Opposed Positions*. In 2018, the TLS named her one of the twenty best British and Irish novelists working today.



### Sunjeev Sahota

#### *China Room*

(Harvill Secker/Vintage)

A heart-stopping story of love, family, survival and betrayal from the prize-winning author of *The Year of the Runaways*.

**Sunjeev Sahota** has been shortlisted for the 2015 Man Booker Prize, the International Dylan Thomas Prize and the Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award, and he has won the Encore Prize, the European Union Prize for Literature, and the South Bank Sky Arts Award. He was chosen as one of Granta's Best Young British

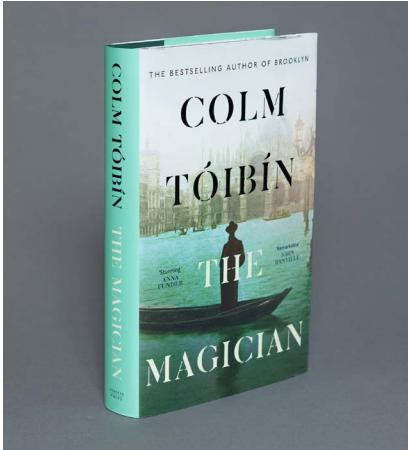


Novelists in 2013. He lives in Sheffield.

## Colm Tóibín

### *The Magician*

(Viking/Penguin General)



From one of our greatest living writers comes a sweeping novel of unrequited love, exile, war and family. Colm Tóibín's exhilarating new novel is, at once, the intimate portrait of a writer and, at the same time, the story of a turbulent century.

**Colm Tóibín** was born in Enniscorthy in 1955. He is the author of ten novels, and his work has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize three times, as well as the Folio Prize in 2015; and has won the Costa Novel Award, the Impac Award and the David Cohen Prize for Literature, amongst others. He lives in Dublin.

## About the judges



**Tessa Hadley** is the chair of the judges and is the author of seven highly praised novels *Accidents in the Home*, which was longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award, *Everything Will Be All Right*, *The Master Bedroom*, *The London Train*, *Clever Girl*, *The Past*, *Late in the Day* and three collections of stories, *Sunstroke*, *Married Love*, and *Bad Dreams*. She won a Windham Campbell prize for Fiction in 2016, *The Past* won the Hawthornden Prize for 2016; *Bad Dreams* won the 2018 Edge Hill Short Story Prize. Her stories appear regularly in the *New Yorker*. Her eighth novel *Free Love* was published in January 2022.



**Rachel Long's** debut collection *My Darling from the Lions* (Picador 2020 / Tin House 2021) was shortlisted for the Forward Prize for Best First Collection, The Costa Book Award, The Rathbones Folio Prize, and the Jhalak Prize. She is currently shortlisted for the Sunday Times Charlotte Aitken Young Writer of the Year Award and in 2021 was a mentor for the Rathbones Folio Mentorships scheme. She is the founder of Octavia Poetry Collective for women of colour, housed at the Southbank Centre in London.



**William Atkins** is the author of *The Immeasurable World: A Desert Journey*, which won the Stanford Dolman Travel Book of the Year award, and *The Moor: A Journey Into the English Wilderness*. He is a contributor to the *Guardian*, the *New York Times*, *Harper's* and *Granta*, where he is also a guest editor. His book *Exiles: Three Island Journeys* will be published by Faber in 2022. He lives in Suffolk.

# Rathbones Folio Prize

2 0 2 2



**About the Rathbones Folio 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. Previous winners were George Saunders in 2014, Akhil Sharma in 2015, Hisham Matar in 2017, Richard Lloyd-Parry in 2018, Raymond Antrobus in 2019, Valeria Luiselli in 2020, and Carmen Maria Machado in 2021.

**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