

MEDIA RELEASE | **STRICTLY EMBARGOED UNTIL 18:00PM GMT WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024**

LIZ BERRY, ANNE ENRIGHT AND LAURA CUMMING WINNERS OF THE WRITERS' PRIZE 2024 ANNOUNCED



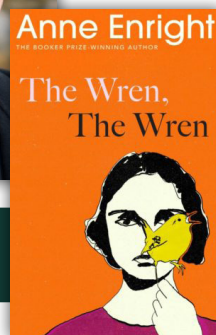
**BOOK OF
THE YEAR**



**WINNER
POETRY**

Chatto & Windus

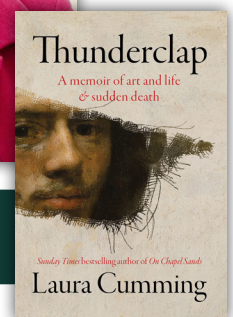
Liz Berry
The Home Child



**WINNER
FICTION**

Jonathan Cape

Anne Enright
The Wren, The Wren



**WINNER
NON-FICTION**

Chatto & Windus

Laura Cumming
Thunderclap

In the first year since its rebrand, **The Writers' Prize** (formerly the Rathbones Folio Prize) announced an exceptional list of winners at a ceremony at The London Book Fair. Open to all works of literature, regardless of form, The Writers' Prize is the only international, English-language award nominated and judged purely by other writers. This year's shortlists and winners were decided entirely by the Folio Academy, made up of over 350 acclaimed writers who represent excellence in all areas of literature.

Liz Berry's *The Home Child* was announced as the winner of the poetry category (£2000) and for The Writers' Prize Book of the Year (£30,000), the first poet since Raymond Antrobus in 2019 to win the overall award. Born in the Black Country and now living in Birmingham, Berry's winning book was inspired by the story of her great-aunt Eliza Showell, one of the many children forcibly emigrated to Canada as part of the British Child Migrant Schemes. *The Home Child* is a beautiful novel-in-verse about a child far from home, described as 'absolutely magical' by Fiona Benson.

Booker-winner **Anne Enright**, the first Laureate for Irish Fiction, won in the Fiction category (£2,000) for ***The Wren, The Wren***, a stirring meditation on love and the love between mother and daughter. **Laura Cumming**, who has been shortlisted for the prize for three consecutive books, won the Non-Fiction category (£2,000) with ***Thunderclap***, a kaleidoscopic memoir connecting her life as an art critic with the vivid world of her father's paintings and those of the Dutch Golden Age.

Minna Fry, Director of The Writers' Prize, said: 'This year, in our new incarnation as The Writers' Prize, we have been delighted by and deeply grateful for the engagement of the members of the Folio Academy. They have undertaken their new remit to decide on the shortlist and category winners with great seriousness, and a number of them have also supported the prize financially in its time of need. Over the last nine weeks, we've celebrated three stunning shortlists – for fiction, poetry and non-fiction – each of which has reflected the exhilarating breadth and strength of the literary landscape in 2024. We are also grateful for the generosity of The TS Eliot Foundation, Bloomberg, Ingram Book Group and Rathbones – as well as a number of kind individuals – who have stepped forward to support the prize.'

For the second year running, women writers have triumphed in all three category awards and, in a prize first, all three titles were published by Vintage. Last year, Margo Jefferson took the Book of the Year prize for her 'astounding and rhapsodic book,' *Constructing a Nervous System* (Granta), alongside Victoria Adukwei Bulley, who was awarded the Poetry prize for her debut collection *Quiet* (Faber) and Michelle de Kretser who won the Fiction category for *Scary Monsters* (Atlantic).

In winning the overall prize, Liz Berry joins Margo Jefferson (2023), Colm Tóibín (2022), Carmen Maria Machado (2021), Valeria Luiselli (2020), Raymond Antrobus (2019), Richard Lloyd Parry (2018), Hisham Matar (2017), Akhil Sharma (2015) and George Saunders (2014) as previous winners of the prize.

Join the conversation via: thewritersprize.com | X: @TheWritersPrize | IG: @thewritersprize

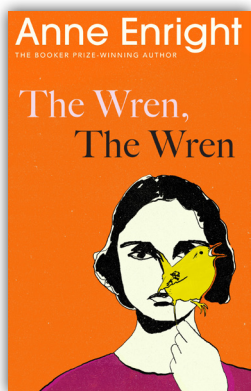
[Images for media are available to access here.](#)



Liz Berry *The Home Child* (Chatto & Windus, 2 March 2023)

Inspired by the poet's great-aunt's forced migration as a child away from her family in the Black Country to Nova Scotia, Liz Berry's *The Home Child* is a beautiful novel-in-verse about a child far from home, which Benjamin Zephaniah described as 'ground-breaking'.

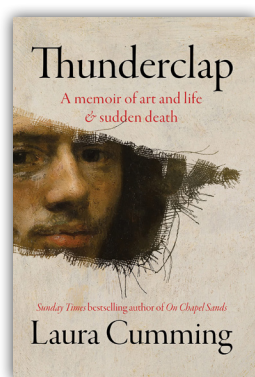
Liz Berry was born in the Black Country and now lives in Birmingham. Her debut collection, *Black Country*, 'a sooty, soaring hymn to her native West Midlands' (Guardian), won a Somerset Maugham Award, the Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize, and the Forward Prize for Best First Collection. Her pamphlet *The Republic of Motherhood* was a Poetry Book Society Pamphlet Choice and the title poem won the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem 2018. In *The Home Child*, a novel in verse, she reimagines the story of her great-aunt, Eliza Showell, one of the many children forcibly emigrated to Canada as part of the British Child Migrant Schemes.



Anne Enright *The Wren, The Wren* (Jonathan Cape, 31 August 2023)

From the Booker Prize-winning Irish author, Anne Enright, *The Wren, The Wren* is a meditation on love and the love between mother and daughter – sometimes fierce, often painful, but always transcendent.

Anne Enright was born in Dublin, where she now lives and works. She has written two collections of stories, published together as *Yesterday's Weather*, one book of non-fiction, *Making Babies*, and seven novels, including *The Gathering*, which won the 2007 Man Booker Prize; *The Forgotten Waltz*, which was awarded the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction; and *The Green Road*, which was the Bord Gáis Energy Novel of the Year and won the Kerry Group Irish Fiction Award. In 2015 she was appointed as the first Laureate for Irish Fiction, and in 2018 she received the Irish PEN Award for Outstanding Contribution to Irish Literature. She is also the recipient of the 2022 Irish Book Awards Lifetime Achievement Award.



Laura Cumming *Thunderclap: A Memoir of Life and Art and Sudden Death* (Chatto & Windus, 6 July 2023)

From the bestselling author of *On Chapel Sands*, Laura Cumming's *Thunderclap* is a kaleidoscopic memoir connecting her life as an art critic with the vivid world of her father's paintings and those of the Dutch Golden Age. This is the third time Laura has been shortlisted for the prize.

Laura Cumming has been chief art critic of the *Observer* since 1999. Her books include *A Face to the World: On Self-Portraits* (2009) and *The Vanishing Man: In Pursuit of Valequez* (2016) which won the James Tait Black Biography Prize. Her family memoir, *On Chapel Sands: my Mother and other Missing Persons* (2019) was a *Sunday Times* bestseller and shortlisted for the Baillie Gifford, Costa and Rathbone's Folio prizes.

Notes to Editors

About The Writers' Prize | The Writers' Prize, formerly the Rathbones Folio Prize, is the flagship of the Literature Prize Foundation, which also runs the Folio Academy Mentorships for aspiring young writers. Awarded for literary excellence, it is the only international, English-language prize nominated by an academy of writers who are at the forefront of the literary community. The prize announced a new format in 2023 featuring three separate shortlists, to address the changing landscape of literary prizes, spotlight more authors, and offer readers and retailers a clearer, broader range of recommendations. The prize was sponsored by Rathbones Investment Management from 2017 until 2023, and is now seeking a new sponsor.

About The Folio Academy | The Folio Academy is a community of 350+ writers, who represent excellence in literature. Academicians include: Margaret Atwood, Dame Carol Ann Duffy, Ian McEwan, Sir Salman Rushdie, Zadie Smith and Sir Tom Stoppard. Between them, Academicians have won thousands of literary awards, including 16 Man Booker Prizes. They also mentor young writers in the Folio Academy 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 Prize Foundation | The Literature Prize 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 through its celebrated Folio Academy Mentorships scheme and other outreach 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.