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For Excellence In Poetry

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**2020 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE ANNOUNCED**

**TORONTO – September 12, 2019** – The trustees of The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry are pleased to announce that **Paula Meehan** (Ireland), **Kei Miller** (Jamaica/UK) and **Hoa Nguyen** (Canada) are the judges for the 2020 Griffin Poetry Prize.

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**Paula Meehan** was born in Dublin where she still lives. She studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and at Eastern Washington University in the U.S. She has published seven collections of poetry which have received both popular and critical acclaim. She has moderated workshops in the community, in the prisons, in recovery programmes and has worked extensively with emerging poets inside and outside the universities. Her work has been translated into French, German, Galician, Italian, Japanese, Estonian, Portuguese, Spanish, Greek, Chinese and Irish. She has received the Butler Literary Award for Poetry presented by the Irish American Cultural Institute, the Marten Toonder Award for Literature, the Denis Devlin Award for *Dharmakaya*, published in 2000, The Lawrence O'Shaughnessy Award for Poetry 2015, and the PPI Award for Radio Drama. Dedalus Press has published *Mysteries of the Home*, a selection of seminal poems from the 1980s and the 1990s. She was honoured with election to Aosdána, the Irish Academy for the Arts, in 1996. She was Ireland Professor of Poetry, 2013 – 2016, and her public lectures from these years, *Imaginary Bonnets with Real Bees in Them*, was published by UCD Press in 2016. *Geomantic*, her latest collection of poems, was published by Dedalus Press, Dublin, in 2016 and received a Cholmondeley Award.

**Kei Miller** was born in Jamaica in 1978 and has written several books across a range of genres. His 2014 collection, *The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way to Zion*, won the Forward Prize for Best Collection while his 2017 Novel, *Augustown*, won the Bocas Prize for Caribbean Literature, the Prix Les Afriques, and the Prix Carbet de la Caraïbe et du Tout-Monde. He is also an essayist. In 2010, the Institute of Jamaica awarded him the Silver Musgrave medal for his contributions to Literature and in 2018 he was awarded the Anthony Sabga medal for Arts & Letters.

Kei has an MA in Creative Writing from Manchester Metropolitan University and a PhD in English Literature from the University of Glasgow. He has taught at the Universities of Glasgow, Royal Holloway and Exeter. He is the 2019 Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor to the University of Iowa and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

**Hoa Nguyen** is the author of several books of poetry, including *As Long As Trees Last*, *Red Juice*, and *Violet Energy Ingots*, which was shortlisted for the 2017 Griffin Poetry Prize. As a public proponent and advocate of contemporary poetry, she has served as guest editor for *The Best Canadian Poetry in English 2018* and she has performed and lectured at numerous institutions, including Princeton University, Bard College, Poet's House, and the Banff Centre's Writers Studio. Recipient of a 2019 Pushcart Prize and a 2020 Neustadt International Prize for Literature nomination, she has received grants and fellowships from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the MacDowell Colony, and the Millay Colony for the Arts. Her writing has garnered attention from such outlets as The PBS News Hour, *Granta*, *The Walrus*, *New York Times*, and *Poetry*, among others. Born in the Mekong Delta and raised and educated in the United States, Nguyen has lived in Canada since 2011.

All three judges understand the importance of the Griffin Poetry Prize's international reach and may consequently call in books of English language poetry from around the world.

The shortlisted books (four international and three Canadian) will be announced on Tuesday, April 7, 2020.

The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry is pleased to announce that the Shortlist Readings will take place in Koerner Hall at The Royal Conservatory in the TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning, on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

The winners of the Griffin Poetry Prize will be named at an awards ceremony to be held in Toronto on Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

**Note to Publishers:**

The submissions deadline for the 2020 Griffin Poetry Prize, for books published between January 1 and June 30 was **Sunday, June 30, 2019** and for books published between July 1 and December 31, is **Tuesday, December 31, 2019**. Submitted books must be postmarked no later than these dates.

If you have any questions regarding the rules, or would like to download an entry form, please visit our web site, at: <http://www.griffinpoetryprize.com/how-to-enter/rules>

For further information please contact:

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