

Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2026

Gradam Bliantúil Filíochta i gCuimhnear Mhícheál Ó hAirtnéide 2026

This annual award was established by Limerick County Council and is jointly funded by Limerick City and County Council and The Arts Council to mark Michael Hartnett's contribution to literature in English and Irish. In 2026, the award of €8,000 will be made to the winning poet on the basis of a **third or subsequent book of poetry, published in the last two years, i.e. 2024-2025.**

The Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award is awarded in alternate years to books of poetry in the Irish and English language. **This year the award will be made to a poet writing in English.** The adjudicators for 2026 are **Gerard Smyth**, poet and Aosdána member, and **Jo Slade**, poet and former Hartnett winner.

The closing date for applications is Friday, 12th June 2026.

The Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award will be presented to the winning poet at the opening of Éigse Michael Hartnett on Thursday 1st October 2026 in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Conditions:

1. The Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award 2026 **targets published poets in mid-career, with the objective of supporting and encouraging the furtherance of their career.**
2. The Michael Hartnett Annual Poetry Award, in the year 2026 will be awarded for a book of poetry in the **English language.**
3. The award-winning poet must be an Irish national or be resident in Ireland for a period of over two years.
4. A book of poems by a poet will be selected on the following basis:
That it must be the poet's third or subsequent book of poetry, published in the last two years, i.e. 2024 to 2025.
- 5 **Only single volumes** and not selected poems or collections are eligible for submission.
- 6 Previous recipients of the Michael Hartnett Poetry Award are not eligible for consideration in 2026.
- 7 Poetry books are to be **submitted by publishing houses** and **only one book title per poet** is allowed. (Poets must be informed by their publishers of their books' submission for this award.)
- 8 The adjudicator's decision will be final. No discussion will be entered into with any of the submitted poets with regard to the judges' decision.
- 9 **Four copies** of the submitted book of poems with the completed application form should be sent to:

Limerick Arts Office, Limerick City and County Council, Merchants Quay, Limerick and should arrive here no later than **Friday 12th June 2026** (Please note that books cannot be returned.)

- 10 Please submit a separate application form for each individual poet. Applications forms may be photocopied.
- 11 The Michael Hartnett Poetry Award will be presented to the winning poet at the opening night of Éigse Michael Hartnett Literary & Arts Festival 2026 on Thursday 1st October 2026 in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick.

Please forward **application forms** and **four copies** of the book to:

Limerick Arts Office
Limerick City and County Council, Merchant's Quay, Limerick V94 EH90

Oifig Ealaíon Luimnigh
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh, Cé na gCeannaithe, Luimnigh V94 EH90

T: 061 556370

E: artsoffice@limerick.ie

