



**THE GRIFFIN TRUST
For Excellence In Poetry**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUDGES FOR THE

2018 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE ANNOUNCED

TORONTO – September 6, 2017 – The trustees of The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry are pleased to announce that **Sarah Howe** (UK), **Ben Lerner** (US) and **Ian Williams** (Canada) are the judges for the 2018 Griffin Poetry Prize.

Trustees Emeriti:

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Sarah Howe is a British poet, academic and editor. Her first book, *Loop of Jade* (2015), won the T.S. Eliot Prize and *The Sunday Times* Young Writer of the Year Award. Born in Hong Kong to an English father and Chinese mother, she moved to England as a child. Her pamphlet, *A Certain Chinese Encyclopedia* (2009), won an Eric Gregory Award from the Society of Authors. She is the founding editor of *Prac Crit*, an online journal of poetry and criticism. She held fellowships at the University of Cambridge, Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute, and University College London before recently taking up a lectureship in poetry at King's College London.

Ben Lerner is the author of three books of poetry (*The Lichtenberg Figures*, *Angle of Yaw*, and *Mean Free Path*), two novels (*Leaving the Atocha Station*, and *10:04*), and a work of criticism (*The Hatred of Poetry*). He has received fellowships from the Fulbright, Guggenheim, and MacArthur Foundations, among many other honours.



Ian Williams is the author of *Personals*, shortlisted for the Griffin Poetry Prize, and the Robert Kroetsch Poetry Book Award; *Not Anyone's Anything*, winner of the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for the best first collection of short fiction in Canada; and *You Know Who You Are*, a finalist for the ReLit Prize for poetry. His first novel, *Reproduction*, is forthcoming. He was named as one of ten Canadian writers to watch by the CBC. Williams completed his Ph.D. in English at the University of Toronto and teaches poetry in the Creative Writing Program at the University of British Columbia. He was the 2014-15 Canadian Writer-in-Residence for the University of Calgary's Distinguished Writers Program.

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 10, 2018.

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 Wednesday, June 6, 2018 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 Thursday, June 7, 2018.

The trustees are also happy to advise that the next Griffin Lifetime Recognition Award recipient will be announced on Wednesday, October 11, 2017. The Griffin Lifetime Recognition Award recipient will attend the Shortlist Readings on June 6, 2018.

Note to Publishers:

The submissions deadline for the 2018 Griffin Poetry Prize, for books published between January 1 and June 30 was **Friday, June 30, 2017** and for books published between July 1 and December 31, 2017, is **Sunday, December 31, 2017**. 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>



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