

2019 Michael Murphy Memorial Prize Poetry Competition Press Release



The English Association is pleased to announce the shortlist for the 2019 Michael Murphy Memorial Prize Poetry Competition



**Raymond Antrobus, *The Perseverance*, Penned in the Margins.
Kayo Chingonyi, *Kumukanda*, Penguin.
Sophie Collins, *Who is Mary Sue?* Faber& Faber.
Zaffar Kunial, *Us*, Faber& Faber.
Hannah Sullivan, *Three Poems*, Faber& Faber.**

About the Prize

The Michael Murphy Memorial Prize is a biennial prize for a distinctive first book of poetry in English published in Britain or Ireland. The prize was established by colleagues at Nottingham Trent University in honour of the Liverpool-born poet Michael Murphy, who was 43 when he died of a brain tumour in May 2009.

Michael Murphy's first volume of poetry, *After Attila*, appeared from Shoestring Press in 1998 when he was 33. Shoestring has published two subsequent collections, *Elsewhere* (2003) and *Allotments* (2008), and brought out a posthumous *Collected Poems* in 2011. In 2001 Michael was awarded the Geoffrey Dearmer Prize by Poetry Review as 'New Poet of the Year'. The intention of the present prize is to extend the same recognition to another new poet.

The 2019 – 2020 Competition

This year marks the fifth biennial prize of £1000 for a distinctive first volume of poetry in English published in Britain or Ireland, between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2018. The judges for this year's award are Professor Deryn Rees-Jones, University of Liverpool; Professor Linda Anderson, Newcastle University; and Dr Jonathan Ellis, University of Sheffield.

The winner will be announced on National Poetry Day (3 October 2019), and the award will be presented at the next English Association Annual General Meeting (27 May 2020).

The prize-winning collection will be advertised and reviewed in the English Association Newsletter, the Association's journal *English* and on the Association's website.

The Longlist recap...

**Raymond Antrobus, *The Perseverance*, Penned in the Margins.
Polly Atkin, *Basic Nest Architecture*, Seren.
Kayo Chingonyi, *Kumukanda*, Penguin.
Sophie Collins, *Who is Mary Sue?* Faber& Faber.
Jane Commane, *Assembly Lines*, Bloodaxe Books.
Nia Davies, *All fours*, Bloodaxe Books.
Wayne Holloway-Smith, *Alarum*, Bloodaxe Books.
Zaffar Kunial, *Us*, Faber& Faber.
Nick Makoha, *Kingdom of Gravity*, Peepal Tree.
Phoebe Power, *Shrines of Upper Austria*, Carcanet.
Hannah Sullivan, *Three Poems*, Faber& Faber.**