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## 2017 Resurgence Poetry Prize launched – this year, the biggest ever

The 2017 Resurgence Poetry Prize – already the world’s leading competition of its type – is expanding, with new organizers and an enhanced first prize.

The competition, now in its third year, is the world’s leading ecopoetry competition in the English language. The prize aims to encourage poets to engage with ecology, and to foster the role poetry can play in raising awareness of the ecological imperatives of our time.

The £5,000 first prize will be augmented this year with a writer’s residency at White House Farm, Great Glemham, Suffolk, the competition’s new organizers, The Poetry School, are delighted to announce. The second prize is £2000, and there is a £1000 third prize.

The results will be announced, and the prizes awarded, at a special ceremony at the Poetry in Aldeburgh Festival, 3-5 November 2017. The festival is co-curated by The Poetry School.

This year’s judges are Lavinia Greenlaw, winner of the 2011 Ted Hughes Award, and Cambridge academic and poet, Dr Mina Gorji.

The Resurgence Poetry Prize was founded by Andrew Motion, the former Poet Laureate; Joanna Lumley, the actress and campaigner; and the entrepreneur Peter Phelps, together with the peace activist Satish Kumar, former editor of *Resurgence* magazine, and editor emeritus of the educational charity, The Resurgence Trust.

Previous winners of the prize were Luisa Igloria, the Filipina American writer (2015), and Rob Miles, poet and lecturer in Spanish at the University of Hull (2016).

Details of this year’s competition can be found on the Resurgence Poetry Prize website, [www.resurgenceprize.org](http://www.resurgenceprize.org) or can be obtained from The Poetry School, 81 Lambeth Walk, London SE11 6DX. Tel: 020 7582 1679 . **Closing date for entries is 17 August.**

### Additional Material

#### **Julia Bird, Creative Director of The Poetry School, said:**

‘The Poetry School is delighted to be working with The Resurgence Prize on this year’s ecopoetry prize – what a great opportunity it is for poets to summon their creative thoughts to one of the key issues of our lifetime. Send us all your green thoughts in their green shades, and we look forward to sharing the discoveries that Lavinia and Mina unearth.’

#### **Peter Phelps, Resurgence Prize Founder, said:**

‘In partnering with the Poetry School in its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, the Prize hopes to grow and embrace more exciting poets as well as develop a relationship with the UK’s largest provider of poetry education. The School already has a commitment to ecopoetry in its existing programme and its online presence and international reach make it the perfect partner for this unique prize.’

**James Sainsbury, Chairman of The Resurgence Trust, said:**

‘We’re delighted to be working with The Poetry School on this year’s Prize, and are very grateful to those supporters who are helping to make this competition the biggest so far. Poetry, together with the other arts, has always illuminated, celebrated and helped us understand our relationships with Nature. Now at a time of increasing concerns for our environment, that role is more important than ever.’

**Notes to Editors:**

**The Poetry School** is the UK’s largest provider of poetry education and host to the world’s largest social network for poets – CAMPUS. With a diverse teaching programme ranging from one day workshops to an accredited MA in Writing Poetry (with Newcastle University), and a growing series of talent development projects, The Poetry School is where poetry happens. The Poetry School is a registered charity 1069314, and an Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation.

**The Resurgence Trust** is an educational charity working in the fields of environment, social justice, spirituality and the arts. It publishes *Resurgence & Ecologist* magazine (originally launched in 1966 as *Resurgence*), The Ecologist website and regularly organizes talks, conferences and other events, including the annual Festival of Wellbeing and Resurgence Summer Camp. The Resurgence Trust is based in Hartland, north Devon, and the Trust’s chairman is James Sainsbury. [www.resurgence.org](http://www.resurgence.org)

**Lavinia Greenlaw** has published five collections of poetry. Her awards include NESTA and Wellcome fellowships given for her work on vision, memory, landscape and light. Her immersive soundwork, *Audio Obscura*, an exploration of arrested perception, won the 2011 Ted Hughes Award. In 2016, she wrote and directed a short film, *The Sea is an Edge and an Ending*, a study of the impact of dementia on our sense of time and place, drawing on Shakespeare’s *Tempest*. She has taught at Goldsmiths, King’s and UEA, where she was Professor of Poetry. Her other work includes *Questions of Travel: William Morris in Iceland* and *The Importance of Music to Girls*.

**Mina Gorji** was born in Tehran and grew up in London. She lives in Cambridge where she is a lecturer in the English Faculty, Cambridge and a fellow of Pembroke College. Her published work includes a study of John Clare, and essays on awkwardness, mess, weeds and rudeness. Her poems have appeared, among other places, in Magma, PN Review, London Magazine and The International Literary Quarterly.

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