

Marina Warner

Marina Warner is Professor of Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies at the University of Essex, where she began Memory Maps as part of the creative writing programme. Her mother was Italian and her father English, and she was brought up in Egypt, Belgium, and Cambridge, England. She has been a writer since she was young, specialising in mythology and fairy-tales, with an emphasis on the part women play in them. Her award-winning books include *Alone of All Her Sex: The Myth and the Cult of the Virgin Mary* (1976), *From the Beast to the Blonde* (1994) and *Phantasmagoria: Spirit Visions, Metaphors, and Media* (2006), a study of phantasms and modern technologies. In 1994 she gave the BBC Reith Lectures. She has published several novels: *The Lost Father* (1988), *Indigo* (1992), and *The Leto Bundle* (2000), as well as two collections of short stories. She writes art criticism, and curates exhibitions, including *Only Make-Believe: Ways of Playing* (2005). She is now working on a memoir-cum-novel, inspired by her father's bookshop in Cairo in the Fifties, and, in the historical-critical area, continuing research into fairy-tales and magic with a study of the idea of the orient, *Stranger Magic*.

Charles Fernyhough

Charles Fernyhough is a senior lecturer in psychology at Durham University. His books include *The Baby In The Mirror*, a non-fiction book about the psychological development of his three-year-old daughter, and a novel, *The Auctioneer*. He contributes to the MA in Creative Writing at Newcastle University. Further details are available at www.charlesfernyhough.com.

Vesna Goldsworthy

Vesna Goldsworthy's memoir, *Chernobyl Strawberries*, was published by Atlantic in March 2005 to broad critical acclaim. It was serialised in The Times and read by Vesna herself as Book of the Week on Radio Four. It has been a bestseller in a number of European countries. In Germany, where it was published as *Heimweh nach Nirgendwo* (Homesick for Nowhere), it has had fourteen editions since publication in September 2005.

Vesna was born in Belgrade in 1961. She was already an acclaimed poet and a presenter of a fashionable radio programme when she left Yugoslavia for England in 1986. Since then, she has worked in publishing, for the BBC World Service, and as a university teacher. Her first book, *Inventing Ruritania*, a study of the 'Wild East' of Europe in literature and film has been translated into Bulgarian, Greek, Romanian and Serbian.

She is Reader in English Literature and Creative Writing at Kingston University and is Director of Kingston's Centre for Suburban Studies, which she founded in 2004, and Honorary Senior Research Fellow at UCL. She lives in West London with her husband and young son.

Richard Mabey

After education at Oxford, RM worked as a lecturer in Social Studies in Further Education, then as a Senior Editor at Penguin Books. He became a full-time writer in 1974. He is the author of some thirty books, including *Whistling in the Dark: In Pursuit of the Nightingale*, *Beechcombings: the narratives of Trees*, the groundbreaking and best-selling “cultural flora” *Flora Britannica*, and *Gilbert White*, which won the Whitbread Biography Award. His recent memoir *Nature Cure*, which describes how reconnecting with the wild helped him break free from debilitating depression, was short-listed for three major literary awards, Whitbread, Ondaatje, Ackerley. He writes for the Independent, the Guardian, Resurgence and Granta, and contributes frequently to BBC radio. In the 1980s he sat on the UK governments’ advisory body, the Nature Conservancy Council. He has been awarded honorary doctorates by St Andrews and Essex universities for his contributions to nature writing, and was appointed to the Civil List in 2008 for services to literature. He is Vice-President of the Open Spaces Society and Patron of the John Clare Society. He lives in Norfolk, in the Waveney Valley.

Adrian May

Adrian May's background is as a songwriter, lyricist and performer on the English folk music circuit. In addition to songs, he has published poems, fiction and essays on music and Creative Writing. His current work includes an exploration of positive views of tradition, and a book on writing mythically. PN Review has recently published an essay on the lyrics of Arctic Monkeys. His research interests include myth, tradition, DH Lawrence and poet Stevie Smith.

Jules Pretty OBE, FRSA, FIBiol

Professor Jules Pretty is Head of the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Essex. His books include *The Earth Only Endures* (2007), *Environment* (4 vols, ed 2006), *Biological Approaches to Sustainable Soil Systems* (2006, co-authored), *The Earthscan Reader in Sustainable Agriculture* (2005, ed), *The Pesticide Detox* (2005), *Agri-Culture* (2002) and *Guide to a Green Planet* (ed, 2002). He is a Fellow of the Institute of the Biology and the Royal Society of Arts, Deputy-Chair of the government’s Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE), and has served on advisory committees for DEFRA, DFID, the Cabinet Office and DTI. He received a 1997 international award from the Indian Ecological Society, was appointed A D White Professor-at-Large by Cornell University from 2001, and received an OBE in 2006 for services to sustainable agriculture.

Kevin Jackson

Kevin Jackson is Visiting Professor of English Language and Literature at University College, London. His next publication will be *Moose* (Reaktion Books, November 2008).

Claire Preston

Claire Preston is Fellow and Lecturer in English, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. Her books include *Sir Thomas Browne: The World Proposed; Bee; Thomas Browne and the Writing of Early-Modern Science*; and *Edith Wharton's Social Register*. Her research in the early-modern period includes the mutual influences of literature and scientific investigation, in word-image relations, and in the role of landscape in literature.

Rebecca Solnit

Rebecca Solnit is the author of ten books on visual culture, place, landscape, and politics, including *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*, *Hope in the Dark*, *A Field Guide to Getting Lost*, and *Motion Studies: Time, Space and Eadweard Muybridge*, as well as a contributing editor to Harper's magazine and a regular writer for the political-essays site tomdispatch.com. She lives in San Francisco and travels extensively in landscapes of the West.

Joy Gregory

Born in England to Jamaican parents, Joy Gregory grew up in Buckinghamshire later studying at Buckinghamshire College of Higher Education, Manchester Polytechnic and the Royal College of Art. Since finishing college in 1986 her work has been exhibited all over the world, and featured in many biennales and festivals. Over the year she has received numerous awards for her practice including in 2002 a Fellowship from the National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts.

Her chosen medium is photography. From self portraiture the work has moved on to include articles and accessories of dress, landscape – most especially sea and cityscape - portraits of others and most recently wild flowers. Most importantly the photographic process is for me a means of delivering the message – 19th century cyanotype, for example, adds a dimension of time and suggests narrative structure. Often, as in *Cinderella Story*, where a pair of glamorous golden shoes finds itself in a variety of romantic cities, two subject strands will be pulled together in a delicately ironic or touching narrative. Underlying a variety of themes is the exploration of beauty and gender, memory and place, and the issues of control and power over the constructed nature of femininity.

George Szirtes

George Szirtes, born in Budapest, is the author of some dozen books of poetry and roughly the same number of volumes of translation from the Hungarian, both verse and prose. As a poet he has won the Faber prize, the Cholmondeley Prize and most recently the T S Eliot Prize for his book, *Reel* (2004). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature. His *New and Collected Poems* will be published by Bloodaxe this November along with a study of his work by John Sears.

Grace Lau

Born UK, parents from Sichuan, China.

MA in Photography: History and Culture, from LCC (London College of Communications, University of the Arts)

Exhibited widely, including National Portrait Gallery, Tate Britain, Photofusion, Aberystwyth Arts Centre. Touring exhibition from August, 2008, at the Brighton Museum and Art Gallery.

A retrospective book of her work was published in 1997 entitled *Adults in Wonderland* (pub: Serpents Tail, London)

Forthcoming book: *Picturing the Chinese* to be published summer 2008 by Joint Publications Hong Kong.

Tamar Yoseloff

Tamar Yoseloff's three collections of poetry are *Sweetheart* (Slow Dancer Press, 1998), *Barnard's Star* (Enitharmon Press, 2004) and most recently, *Fetch* (Salt, 2007). She is also the author of *Marks* (Pratt Contemporary Editions, 2007), a collaborative book with the artist Linda Karshan, and the editor of *A Room to Live In: A Kettle's Yard Anthology* (Salt, 2007). In 2005 she was Writer in Residence at Magdalene College, Cambridge, as part of their Year in Literature Festival. She is a tutor for The Poetry School and the poetry editor of Art World Magazine.

Philip Terry

Philip Terry has taught at the universities of Caen, Plymouth and Essex, where he is currently Director of Creative Writing. He is the editor of the anthology *Ovid Metamorphosed* (2000), and author of *Fables of Aesop* (2006) and *Oulipoems* (2006).

Ken Worpole

Ken Worpole is the author of a number of books on landscape, architecture and urban social policy. He was a Founding Associate of Demos, served on the UK government's Urban Green Spaces Task Force, and is an adviser to CABE and the Heritage Lottery Fund. He was recently appointed Professor at the Cities Institute, London Metropolitan University. He is currently finishing a book on the modern hospice movement.

Amanda Hopkinson

Amanda Hopkinson is the Director of the British Centre for Literary Translation, founded in 1989 by author WG Sebald, also Professor of German at the University of East Anglia. Primarily a literary translator (from the Spanish, Portuguese and French), Amanda also reviews and writes widely on photography, and has a specialist interest in Latin American culture. Recent translations include *Dead Horsemeat* and *Lorraine Connection* by Dominique Manotti (co-translated with Ros Schwartz, published 2007)

and 2008); *Malvinas Requiem* by Rodolfo Fogwill (co-translated with Nick Caistor, 2007); and *Money to Burn* by Ricardo Piglia (2006). Photographic monographs include *Manuel Alvarez Bravo* (2004) and *Martin Chambi* (2002), and volumes include *150 Years of Photojournalism* and *Contemporary Photographers*, plus major contributions to *The Oxford Companion to the Photograph* (ed. Robin Lenman, 2005) and the photography and literature sections of the *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Latin American and Caribbean Cultures* (ed. Daniel Balderston, Mike Gonzalez and Ana M. Lopez, 2000).

Robert Macfarlane

Robert Macfarlane is the author of *The Wild Places* (2007) and *Mountains of the Mind* (2003). He is a Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge."

Bernardine Evaristo

Bernardine Evaristo's new novel *Blonde Roots* is a reversal of the transatlantic slave trade in which Africans enslave Europeans (Penguin, July 08). She has previously fused fiction with poetry in a novel-in-verse *The Emperor's Babe*, about a black girl growing up in Roman London nearly 2000 years ago (Penguin 01), and a novel-with-verse *Soul Tourists* which features many prominent European figures of colour including Pushkin and Alessandro dei Medici, the first Duke of Florence (Penguin 05). Bloodaxe Books will publish her novel-in-verse *Lara* in 2009, which is about her family history with roots in England, Nigeria, Ireland, Brazil and Germany. She has received several awards, her books have been a Book of the Year nine times for national newspapers and she is a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and the Royal Society of Arts.

Fiona Sampson

Fiona Sampson has published fourteen books – including poetry, philosophy of language and books on writing process – of which the most recent are *Common Prayer* (Carcenet 2007, shortlisted for the 2007 T.S.Eliot Prize), *On Listening* (essays: 2007) and *Writing: Self and Reflexivity* (with Celia Hunt, Macmillan, 2005). Earlier books include *The Self on the Page* (1999, with Celia Hunt) and *Creative Writing in Health and Social Care* (2005); *The Distance Between Us* (Seren, 2001) and *The Healing Word* (Poetry Society, 1999). Her awards include the Newdigate Prize; 'Trumpeldor Beach' was short-listed for the 2006 Forward Prize; and she has been widely translated, with eight books in translation, including *Patuvachki Dnevnik* (*Travel Diary*), awarded the 2003 Zlaten Prsten (Macedonia). Other prizes include writers' awards from the Arts Councils of England and Wales and the Society of Authors, and, in the US, the *Literary Review's* annual Charles Angoff Award.

After a first life as a violinist, she was educated at the Universities of Oxford and Nijmegen. She has a PhD in the philosophy of language and was AHRC Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University in 2002-5. She is Fellow in Creativity at the University of Warwick/RSC Capital Centre. She consults internationally on writing in health care, a field she pioneered in the UK, and contributes regularly to *The*

Guardian, *The Irish Times*, *The Liberal* and BBC Radio 3's 'The Verb'. Her many translations include volumes of *Jaan Kaplinski* and of *Amir Or*, an anthology of younger Central European poets, and *Orient Express*, of which she was founding editor. She is the editor of *Poetry Review*.

Richard Humphreys

Richard Humphreys is a research curator at Tate. He has written widely on British art and is a founding member of the London Consortium. He is Principal Investigator for Tate's AHRC-funded 'Sublime Object' research programme and is also writing a history of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Hazel Marsh

Hazel Marsh teaches Spanish & Latin American cultural studies at the University of East Anglia, where she is currently researching links between popular music and the construction of political identity in contemporary Venezuela. Her paternal grandfather was a Romani Gypsy who travelled in East Anglia and the south east counties.

Sahayl Saadi

Suhayl Saadi is a novelist and stage and radio dramatist based in Glasgow. His hallucinatory realist novel, *'Psychoraag'* (Black and White Publishing, 2004) won a PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Literary Award, was short-listed for the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and the Pakistan National Literary Award and was nominated for the Dublin-based Impac Prize and recently was published in French by the Paris-based Editions Métailié. *'Psychoraag'* was acclaimed by the Scottish Book Trust as one of the 'Top 100' Scottish books of all time. Saadi's eclectic short story collection, *'The Burning Mirror'* (Polygon, 2001) was shortlisted for the Saltire First Book Prize. His first novel, the literary erotic fiction, *'The Snake'* (Creation Books, 1997) was penned under the pseudonym, Melanie Desmoulins. His work has been adapted for stage and screen, he has edited a number of anthologies and has penned lyrics for modern classical compositions with the Dunedin Consort (The People's Mass) and international choir (Project Paradisum). He has written extensively for the UK national Press, the BBC and the British Council and in the autumn, he will be the British Council's UK Writer-in-Residence at George Washington University in Washington DC. Currently, Saadi is working on a mini-opera which will receive its London premiere, courtesy of Scottish Opera, at the Riverside Studios, Hammersmith in August and also on another novel. www.suhaylsaadi.com

Dan Fern

Dan Fern is an award-winning graphic artist and an influential teacher. Head of the School of Communications at the Royal College of Art, his work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art in Kyoto, the Centre Pompidou in Paris, the Joan Miró Foundation in Barcelona, the Smithsonian Institute in New York, and is in the permanent collection of the V&A in London. A passionate advocate of a multidisciplinary approach to creativity, Fern is Artistic Director of the MAP/making

project (MAP = Music, Art and Performance) which explores the relationship between the visual and the performing arts, and links the RCA with the Guildhall School of Music. 'Music is the real internet', Fern said in a lecture in the mid-90's, 'and always has been.' Dan Fern is also Chair of the RCA's International Development Group, and believes strongly in the educational value of international relationships. A keen mountaineer, the subject-matter of Fern's work is landscape, focused on an area of SE France, where he has a studio. His successful recent solo exhibition - at England & Co. Gallery in London in 2006 - was accompanied by the publication of a book of his work titled *Walks with Colour*.

Iain Sinclair

Iain Sinclair has lived in (and written about) Hackney, East London, since 1969. His novels include *Downriver* (Winner of the James Tait Black Prize & the Encore Prize for the Year's Best Second Novel), *Radon Daughters*, *Landor's Tower* and, most recently, *Dining on Stones* (which was shortlisted for the Ondaatje prize). Non-fiction books, exploring the myth and matter of London, include *Lights Out for the Territory*, *London Orbital* and *Edge of the Orison*. In the '90s, Iain wrote and presented a number of films for BBC2's Late Show and has, subsequently, co-directed with Chris Petit four documentaries for Channel 4; one of which, *Asylum*, won the short film prize at the Montreal Festival. His most recent book, *London, City of Disappearances*, is published in October 2006.

Jan-Melissa Schramm

Dr Jan-Melissa Schramm is a lawyer, a Fellow at Trinity Hall and a Newton Trust Lecturer in the Faculty of English at the University of Cambridge. She writes about the relationship between legal history and narrative form in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and her publications include *Testimony and Advocacy in Victorian Law, Literature and Theology* (CUP, 2000).

Adrian May

Adrian May was once a professional songwriter and performer on the English folk scene. Now a writing teacher at the University of Essex, the county of his birth, he will perform a short set of songs from and about that 'half-enchanted place', as one of his songs has it.

Ruth Padel

Ruth Padel is a London-born poet of "poise, delicacy, technical venturesomeness, shining imagination and flights of exuberant imagery" (Sunday Times). Her awards include First Prize in the National Poetry Competition, a Cholmeley Award from the Society of Authors and an Arts Council of England Writers' Award. She has published six collections of poetry (most recently *The Soho Leopard*), of which four have been shortlisted for the T S Eliot and/or Whitbread Prizes. In 2002 the British Council sent her to Burma for ten days of poetry workshops and readings. Her non-fiction includes two bestselling books on reading poetry (most recently the *Poem and*

the Journey) and a nature-travel book, *Tigers in Red Weather*, describing her journeys to investigate the tigers vanishing from Asian jungles. She is a former Chair of the Poetry Society of Great Britain and currently first Resident Writer at Somerset House in London.