

# BRAND

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## Biographies

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**Akkas Al-Ali** attended the Royal Court young writers programme and its Critical Mass group. His plays include: *Sima's Story* (showcased at the Royal Court Theatre, 2003); *Beirut: 1982* (for Critical Mass, 2005); *Babel Junction* (Hackney Empire, 2006); *Hanging Ayaz* (staged reading, Soho Theatre, 2008); *Tryst (With Destiny)* was written for Other Asias and performed at Deptford X in 2009. He has also published short stories in *Sable Lit* and *Chroma Literary Journal*.

**Gary Allen** was born in Ballymena, Co. Antrim. Published in *Agenda*, *Ambit*, *Antigonish Review*, *The Edinburgh Review*, *FreeVerse*, *Irish Pages*, *London Magazine*, *Poetry Ireland*, *The Poetry Review*, *South Carolina Review*, *Stand*, *The Yellow Nib*. His tenth poetry collection is due in 2010 from Lagan Press. A selection of his poems featured in the anthology, *The New North*, Wake Forest University Press. He recently received a major award from the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

**Kerry Barner** was born in Yorkshire but has lived in London since 1994. She is a senior publishing editor for an international academic publisher. She has been involved with the Short Story Workshops at Birkbeck College for the past two years. Her work was shortlisted for *Wasafiri's* New Writer Prize in 2009 and she is currently working on a collection of short stories about Pashtun life in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**Dzifa Benson** has performed her work at the London Literature Festival, the Houses of Parliament, the Shakespeare & Company Bookshop, Paris, and recently, South Africa with the British Council and Sustained Theatre. She was a writer-in-residence at the Courtauld Institute of Art from 2007 to 2009 and is an ambassador for Southbank Centre's Global Poetry System project. Her poetry has appeared in *Magma*, *The Manhattan Review*, *the Guardian* and *Philosophy Now* magazine.

**Caroline Bergvall** is a writer and artist based in London, working across media, languages, and artforms. Projects alternate between books, audio pieces, performances and installations. Work has been shown at Tate Modern (LDN), MoMa (NY), Hammer Museum (LA), Henie Onstad (Oslo). Current collaborative installation: *Say Parsley* (Arnolfini Gallery, 8 May-4 July 2010, Bristol). Forthcoming book: *Projects for Foam* (Nightboat Books, NY, Sept 2010). Currently an AHRC Fellow in the Creative and Performing Arts. More info and work samples available here: [www.carolinebergvall.com](http://www.carolinebergvall.com).

**Linda Black** received the 2004/5 Poetry School Scholarship and won the 2006 New Writing Ventures Poetry Award. *The beating of wings* (Hearing Eye, 2006) was a PBS Pamphlet Choice. Her poems have appeared in various magazines and anthologies, including *I am Twenty People!* (Enitharmon, 2007). She received an Arts Council Writer's Award in 2007 and a collection of prose poems, *Inventory*, was published by Shearsman in 2008. She is a co-editor of *Long Poem Magazine*.

**Nadja Bournonville** (born in Sweden 1983) studied Fine Art Photography at The Glasgow School of Art, graduated with a BA (Hons) in 2006. Currently working in Leipzig, Germany. Upcoming solo show in May with *Gabriel Rolt Gallery* in Amsterdam. Represented by *Pierogi Gallery*, New York and also a member of artist collective *Plats*.

**Gary Chandler** was born in Kent in 1962 and now lives in Stratford, East London. He is currently a full-time student at the University of Greenwich, studying a BA in Creative Writing. This is his first published piece.

**E P Csirmaz** ([www.epcsirmaz.co.uk](http://www.epcsirmaz.co.uk)) is a playwright and writer living in London. With Balazs Robert Suda he co-authored *richard2nixon*, whose Hungarian version won critical acclaim when opened in the Thalia Theatre, Budapest in 2005. His *Paranoid Nostalgia*, an extravaganza, was published in 2008, and his short stories have appeared in *Debut* and *Dream Catcher*. A radio play titled *Life on Water, Death on Land* is currently scheduled for a script workshop by The Group.

**Johnny Edwards** is completing his BA in Creative Writing at the University of Greenwich in June 2010. He has been the Arts Administrator and Editorial Assistant of *BRAND* for the past two years.

**Ella Frears** was born in St.Ives in 1991. She has never been published before, but has given a public reading of her poem *So Much Depends* in 2009.

**Angela Gardner** published one book in 2009: *Views of the Hudson* (Shearsman) and two fine press print and poetry collaborations *twelve labours* (light-trap press) and *The Night Ladder* (light-trap press), and she contributed to the anthology *In the Telling* (Cinnamon Press) and *Out of the Box* (Puncher & Wattmann). In 2010, her work will appear in *Kenyon Review*, *Poetry Wales*, *foam:e* and *Great Work*. Find out more at <http://light-trap.blogspot.com>

**Diana Gittins** grew up in Vermont and Rhode Island, and then came to England when she was 14. A writer and poet, she teaches creative writing for the Open University. Her publications include, *Dance of the Sheet* (poetry), *Madness in its Place*, *The Child in Question*, *The Family in Question* and *Fair Sex* (all nonfiction).

Recently she has had work published in *Tears in the Fence*, 14, *Weyfarers* and was shortlisted in the 2009 Cinnamon Poetry Pamphlet competition.

**Steve Griffiths** ([www.stevegriffithspoet.com](http://www.stevegriffithspoet.com)) published his fifth collection of poems, an exploration of an imaginary civilisation, in 2008: *'An Elusive State - Entering al-Chwm'* (Cinnamon). Seren published his *Selected Poems* in 1993, and he is one of a hundred 20th century Welsh poets writing in English included in the Library of Wales *Poetry 1900-2000*, (2007, Parthian Books). After many recent magazine publications he has newly completed two collections, one of which will be published by Cinnamon.

**Simon Hardeman** is a writer, journalist, and former stand-up comedian. He created the Beginners' Guide column in *The Times*, and has written extensively for *The Independent*. He has scripted comedy for radio and TV, including for Rory Bremner; he wrote the play *Death of a Comedian*, inspired by his years as a live performer. His collection of self-penned songs, *Tell the Truth*, was released in 2009. He lectures, principally in journalism, at Greenwich University.

**Jenny Holden** has an MA in Writing from the University of Warwick, and currently lives and works in Oxford. In 2009 she was runner-up in the Orange/Harper's Bazaar Short Story Competition, highly commended in the John Muir Wild Writing Competition, and published in *Junctures Journal*. She has a short story forthcoming in *Fractured West*, and is working on the final draft of her first novel.

**Kati-Maria Ikola** graduated from the University of Greenwich and majored in Creative Writing. She is currently translating Finnish lyricist, Anne Hänninen's poetry into English and working on her own poetry collection. This is her first publication.

**Mikhail Karikis** is a Greek-born and London-based artist, coined by critics a 'sound alchemist' (*Le Monde*) and noted for his 'sumptuous experimentalism' (*WIRE*). With studies in architecture and in fine art, Karikis's practice in sound, performance and visual art is equally embraced by the art gallery and the concert hall. His music is released internationally; other work has featured at Tate, De La Warr Pavilion, Nederlands Dans Theater, Prefix ICA (Canada), Coreana Museum (S.Korea) and elsewhere.

**David Kefford** is a Cambridge-based artist who works in a diverse range of media. He uses everyday objects 'borrowed' from the world of consumer culture and transfers their meaning by re-working them into new anthropomorphic ensembles, which express ideas and emotions related to the human condition.

**Jonathan Kemp's** first novel, *London Triptych*, will be published in September by Myriad Editions. He teaches creative writing, literature, and gender studies at Birkbeck. He lives in London.

**Suglegmaa Khurgaa's** poetic output includes *Orhij bolomqui horin nas* (Twenty Years of No Escape) and *Buid gazrin shülgüüd* (Poetry in Isolation). Her most recent awards include winning the 'Silver Cup Poetry Festival', the 'World Poetry Festival Golden' and the 'Mother Gobi Poetry Festival'. A biographer, interpreter, critic and an eminent and prolific academic, she is also the Executive Director of Danzanravjaa's Study.

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**Seohyung Kim** is in her final year of a Literature and Mathematics degree at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her photography and poetry sequence *Metropolitan Geometry* has been exhibited recently in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**Eni Koukoula** studied at the University of Athens and King's College, University of London. Her monograph *Elusive Time* was published by Kastaniotis (Athens), 2006. She has been publishing her work in the national Greek press since 2007, and in Eleftherotypia on a weekly basis. She has participated in numerous solo and group shows. Her last solo show was *Another Place* in Maniatura Gallery in Athens Photo Festival. Her next solo exhibition, *Another place II - Inside/out* will be at 2Garage2Reloaded, Berlin, November 2010.

**Yahia Lababidi** is the author of *Signposts to Elsewhere* -[www.janestreet.org/press](http://www.janestreet.org/press) - selected for 'Books of the Year', 2008, by *The Independent*, UK and 'Year in Books' in 2007, by the *Sun Sentinel*, USA. His poetry collection, *Fever Dreams*, is forthcoming from Crisis Chronicles Press. Lababidi's work has also appeared in journals such as *World Literature Today*, *AGNI*, *Philosophy Now* and *The Idler* and in *Geary's Guide to the World's Great Aphorists* (Bloomsbury, 2007).

**Stine Ljungdahl** graduated from the Royal College of Art in 2005. She works with a number of personas (in this case T. Smith), all drawn to the idea of capturing the invisible. Her practice includes photography, films and props from these personas, all evidence of the existence of an imaginary zone and questioning the subjective reality of the autonomous self. The image shows the persona, The Bull, acted by the writer Gittan Sarah Pedersen.

**Ulziitugs Luvsandorj** has published five collections of poetry and one volume of fiction. Her awards include the National Literary Award *Altan Od* (Golden Feather) in 2002 which was nominated the 'Best Poetry Book' and 'The Award of Mongolian Writers' Union' in 2003.

**Christodoulos Makris** was born in Nicosia in 1971. His poems have appeared in various journals, most recently *Poetry Salzburg Review*, *Southword*, *Cadences* and *ROPES*. His chapbook *Round the Clock* was published in 2009 by Wurm Press. He is the Dublin regional editor for *Succour* magazine and co-founder of Poetry Upfront, a series of readings and events in north County Dublin. He works in the public library service of Fingal County Council. More at [yesbutisitpoetry.blogspot.com](http://yesbutisitpoetry.blogspot.com).

**Melissa Mann** is a writer and the brawn behind lit club, *Beat the Dust*, which includes a litzine, an online bookshop, *BTD TV* and a small press. Melissa's poetry collection, *baby, i'm ready to go* is out now on *Grievous Jones Press*. Her short fiction and poetry have been widely published in literary journals and anthologies, both in the UK and overseas. For further information about Melissa, visit her website, [www.melissamann.com](http://www.melissamann.com)

**Simon Marriot** is an artist, writer and director of the Society for Curious Thought. His first novel will be published later this year. Duncan Butt-Juvonen is a British artist based in Helsinki whose most recent show was at The Finnish Cultural Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. *Mister Mungo and the Clatter ball* is by Simon Marriot and Duncan Butt-Juvonen from a collaborative series of text/ image works.

**Sophie Mayer** published three books in 2009: *Her Various Scalpels* (Shearsman); *The Cinema of Sally Potter: A Politics of Love* (Wallflower) and (as co-editor) *There She Goes: Feminist Filmmaking and Beyond* (Wayne State), and she contributed to *Artesian, Chroma, DIVA, Hand + Star, Horizon Review, ouroboros review, Sight & Sound and Stand*. Her work was included in *Infinite Difference: Other Poetries by UK Women Poets*, edited by Carrie Etter (Shearsman, 2010). Find out more at [www.sophiemayer.net](http://www.sophiemayer.net)

**Bea Meyer** (born 1969) lives and works in Leipzig and has had solo shows with Galerie b2 and Kunsthalle der Sparkasse in 2010, and the Bauhaus Dessau in 2009. She has work in the collections of the Sammlung Museum, Wiesbaden and the Kunstfonds des Freistaates Sachsen, Dresden, among others.

**Nandipha Mntambo** was born in Swaziland in 1982 and lives and works in Cape Town. In 2006 she was one of five young artists shortlisted for the MTN New Contemporaries Award. Recent group exhibitions include *Undercover: Performing and Transforming Black Female Identities* at Spelman College Museum of Fine Art, Atlanta, GA (2009); and Les Rencontres de Bamako Biennial of African photography, Bamako, Mali (2009). She has been selected for the 17th Biennale of Sydney (2010).

**Caroline Moir** has published stories, creative non-fiction and plays. She has been commissioned by Radio Leeds and Ripon Cathedral. Her street theatre show to commemorate the 1300th anniversary of the death of St Wilfrid of Ripon was performed in the summer of 2009. She has read her work at various venues including Manchester Library, Edinburgh Festival 2009 and Glasgow's 'Aye Write' Festivals 2009 and 2010. Currently seeking an agent she is revising her novel, *Brockenspectre*.

**Tim Morris** is a Lecturer in English and American literature at the University of Dundee. He has published a number of volumes of poetry including *Diagnostic* (Barque Press, 1999), *Ex Nihilo, Two Poems* and *The Day of the Hangings*. He has given many readings and performances of his work in the UK. His monograph *Wallace Stevens: Poetry and Criticism* was published by Salt in 2006.

**Carrie Moyer** is a painter and writer. She is also one half of Dyke Action Machine!, a public art project she founded with photographer Sue Schaffner in 1991. Her paintings and public interventions have been widely exhibited and reviewed nationally and internationally. She is a regular contributor to *Art in America, Artforum*, and the *Brooklyn Rail* among others publications. Moyer teaches painting at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

**Alex Müller** was born in 1971 in Germany and lives and works in Berlin. She runs SAMSA project space in Berlin and in 2010 has shown at "Alles Erwin", Souterrain, Sophie-Gips-Hoefe, Berlin, "Alles fuer das Hauspferd", Galerie Vera Gliem, Cologne, 2009 at "7 x 14", Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden and "gestern kann alles sein", tanja pol galerie, münchen.

**Ian Mullins** was born in Liverpool, 1962: took early retirement at 18, but was later press-ganged into the NHS. Poems published in *Purple Patch, Chimera, The Journal, Magma*, and others, but no published prose yet. The rest is propaganda.

**Miriam Nash** is a poet. Her first pamphlet will be published by flipped eye publishing in 2010. She has performed at international venues including Tate Britain, Tate Modern, The Courtauld Institute of Art, Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club and Young Chicago Authors. She is a member of The Vineyard, an international community of poets led by Jacob Sam-La Rose. Please visit [www.miriamnash.com](http://www.miriamnash.com)

**Courtia Newland** published his first novel, *The Scholar*, in 1997. Further critically acclaimed work includes *Society Within* (1999), and *Snakeskin* (2002). He is co-editor of IC3: The Penguin Book of New Black Writing in Britain (2000) and has short stories featured in many anthologies. His latest books are *The Dying Wish*, and a collection of stories, *Music For the Off-Key* (2006). Courtia was shortlisted for the 2007 Dagger in the Library award.

**Barbara Norden** has written plays, journalism and poetry. She is currently working on *Babylon, or Confusion* for which she received an Arts Council award and a short play for The Factory in connection with the forthcoming Spiral Booths exhibition at the V&A. Other plays include *The Milkman* (Birmingham Rep commission) and *Blue Light in Delphi* (Jerwood Space, staged reading). She runs the MA in Creative Writing (plays and screenplays) at City University London.

**Ruth O'Callaghan**, a Hawthornden Fellow, interviewer, reviewer and editor, hosts two poetry venues in London. Translated into Italian, Romanian, German, Hungarian and Mongolian, an Arts Council grant enabled her to visit Mongolia to collaborate with women poets on a book, CD and website. Both her collections *Where Acid Has Etched* (bluechrome, 2007) and *A Lope of Time* (Shoestring, 2009), have completely sold out. Her new collection *Goater's Alley* (Shoestring) is due in March 2010.

**Koye Oyedeji's** short stories, poetry and essays have appeared in *The Fire People* (Canongate), *IC3* (Penguin), *Write Black, Write British* (Hansib 2005), BBC Online & *ARISE Magazine* amongst other publications. He graduated from the School of Oriental and African Studies and is a contributing editor for *SABLE* Litmag. He has just completed his first novel for which he had received an Arts Council Award.

**Nina Rapi's** plays include: *Kiss the Shadow*, Soho Theatre (workshop production); *Reasons to Hide*, Tristan Bates Theatre (workshop production); *Lovers*, Gielgud Theatre, West End Shorts Season; the award-winning *Angelstare*; *Edgewise*, Gate Theatre & National Theatre of Greece (staged readings); *Josie's Restrooms*, ICA; *Tricky*, Tart Gallery (published by Heinemann); *Ithaka*, Riverside studios (winner of Best Play Award, Bits Theatre Festival, Pirani, India & published in *Seven Plays by Women* - winner of the Raymond Williams Award). More at: [www.nina-rapi.com](http://www.nina-rapi.com).

**James Rippingale** gives few readings of his poetry, and attends even fewer literary events. His debut collection *Tear Gas* was the winner of a recent competition by Grievous Jones Press, and is due to be published by them in September 2010. He is currently working on his second collection *Skullflower*. A selection of his poems can be seen at [www.jamesrippingale.com](http://www.jamesrippingale.com), but apart from that, what is there really to say?

**Zbigniew Rogalski** (born in Poland 1974) is an artist represented by Tanja Pol Gallery in Germany. He lives and works in Warsaw. Selected exhibitions include *The Parallax* and *The Gaze of Zbigniew Rogalski*, Muzeum Sztuki, Lodz, and *Pierwszy Snieg/First Show*, Galeria Arsenal (City Museum/ Kunsthalle), Bialystok in 2010 and at the Centre of Contemporary Art, Warsaw, Zak Branicka, Berlin and the Santa Fe Biennale, USA in 2009.

**Stav Sadot-Poleg's** poems have appeared in *Magma* and *Nthpositon*, and her theatre work performed at the Shunt Vaults, London Bridge. She studied playwriting at Birkbeck College, University of London, and has been part of Liane Strauss's Coram Fields poetry group. She currently lives in Edinburgh.

**Anjan Saha** is the Director of London Literature Lounge - which promotes writers working across different artforms in venues across London. His work has appeared in *London Magazine*, *Pulse*, *A Storm Between Fingers Anthology*, Channel 4, BBC Radio London and BBC Poetry Season. He recently performed for National Poetry Day at the South Bank. He runs the Shepherds Bush Writers Junction. As a spoken word artist he has performed internationally, including at the Czech Jazz Cafe and in Mumbai.

**Helen Sandler** has written two novels, *The Touch Typist* (Diva, 2001) and *Big Deal* (Sapphire/Virgin, 1999) and edited Lambda-winning short story anthologies. Her poems and stories have appeared in *Suspect Thoughts*, *Chroma*, *Velvet* and *Smoke*. Helen has been the books editor of *Diva* magazine and director of the York Lesbian Arts Festival. She recently launched Tollington Press ([www.tollingtonpress.co.uk](http://www.tollingtonpress.co.uk)), which produces books for clients, including writers who want to sell their work at readings.

**John Saul:** Besides writing fiction John Saul was for a long time the translator for Greenpeace in Germany. His first collection of short stories, *Call It Tender* (Salt) was well received in *The Times*. When a second, *The Most Serene Republic: love stories from cities*, came out in 2008 (again Salt Modern Fiction), *Time Out's* reviewer expressed the hope more of his fiction would become available. His third collection, *As Rivers Flow*, duly appeared in July 2009. He lives in Suffolk.

**Andra Simons** published his debut collection *The Joshua Tales* (Treehouse Press) in 2009. His poems have appeared in *The Caribbean Writer*, *Chroma*, *Cent*, *Corpus*, *Litro* and *Introducing*. Other publications include *Bermuda Anthology of Poetry* (Bermuda Ministry of Cultural Affairs) and *Some Poems by People I Like* ([sandraslittlebookshop](http://sandraslittlebookshop)). Find out more at [www.andrasimons.wordpress.com](http://www.andrasimons.wordpress.com)

**Cherry Smyth** is a poet, short story writer and art critic. Her latest poetry collection, *One Wanted Thing*, was published by Lagan Press, 2006. Her poems appear in *Magnetic North*, 2006; *The Shop, Staple, The North*, *Magma* and *Poetry Ireland Review* and 'A Watchful Heart', Salmon, 2009. She was a prize-winner in the National Poetry Competition, 2010 and the London Writers' Competition, 2007. She also writes for *Modern Painters*, *Art Monthly*, *Art Review* and *Circa*.

**Akiko Takizawa** was born in Japan 1971. She graduated from the Royal College of Art with a MA in Fine Arts, 2006. Her work was selected for the *Bloomberg New Contemporaries*, 2006 and shortlisted for the Conran Prize. In the same year she reached the final 10 in the Tokyo *Hitotsuboten*, one of Japanese most prestigious photography competitions. She currently lives and works in London.

**Raffaele Teo** is a freelance graphic designer & artist. After attending Art School in Italy, he invested all his energies in Comparative Literature and Humanities Studies, moving to London in the mid 90s where he specialized in Graphic Design. He's been working as a designer and illustrator since then for *Chroma Literary Journal*, Apis Books, Birkbeck College and the United Nations, among others ([arteo71@hotmail.com](mailto:arteo71@hotmail.com)).

**Jason Vandaele** was born in Belgium. In the twenty-five years since, he has lived for unequal lengths and different purposes in Europe, Japan and America, penning short stories along the way.

**Simon Wickham-Smith** graduated from Kings College, London with a B.A.(Hons) in English Language and Literature. His translations of Mongolian literature include *Perfect Qualities: The Collected Poems of the 5th Noyon Khutagt Danzanravjaa*.

**Steve Willey** is published in the anthologies *Veer Off* (Veer Books, 2008) and *City State: New London Poetry* (Penned In The Margins, 2009). His work is also featured in *Stimulus Respond*, *Onedit 11*, *Past Simple 6* and *Klatch*. His hand-made accordion book *Wave: (Histories of the Kursk)* has been archived by the British Library and his first chapbook *Venus & Other Noises* will be published by Yt Communication in 2010. He co-runs the poetry website [Openned.com](http://Openned.com).