

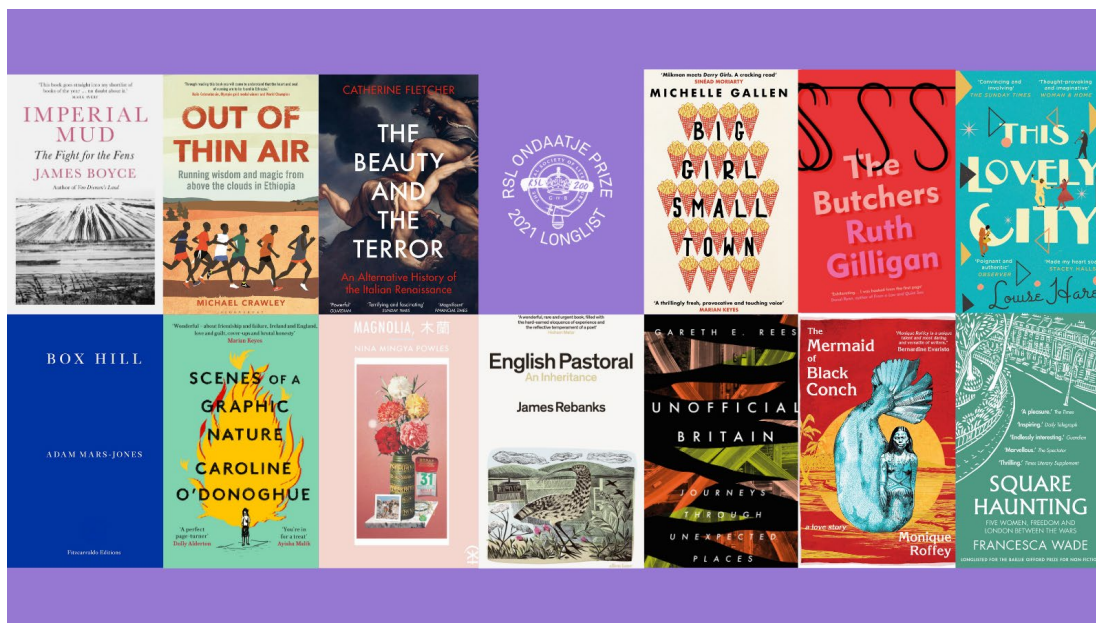


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RSL ONDAATJE PRIZE LONGLIST ANNOUNCED



The Royal Society of Literature (RSL), the voice for the value of literature in the UK, has today unveiled the longlist for the 2021 RSL Ondaatje Prize. An annual prize of £10,000, the RSL Ondaatje Prize is awarded to an outstanding work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry that best evokes the spirit of a place.

Thirteen authors across forms make up this year's longlist, unanimously chosen by judges **Lola, Baroness Young of Hornsey** (chair), **Helen Mort** and **Adam Rutherford**.

The 2021 RSL Ondaatje Longlist is:

James Boyce	<i>Imperial Mud</i>	(Icon Books)
Michael Crawley	<i>Out of Thin Air</i>	(Bloomsbury Sport)
Catherine Fletcher	<i>The Beauty and the Terror</i>	(Bodily Head)
Michelle Gallen	<i>Big Girl, Small Town</i>	(John Murray Publishers)
Ruth Gilligan	<i>The Butchers</i>	(Atlantic Books)
Louise Hare	<i>This Lovely City</i>	(HQ)

Adam Mars-Jones	<i>Box Hill</i>	(Fitzcarraldo Editions)
Caroline O'Donoghue	<i>Scenes of a Graphic Nature</i>	(Virago)
Nina Powles	<i>Magnolia, 木蘭</i>	(Nine Arches Press)
James Rebanks	<i>English Pastoral</i>	(Allen Lane)
Gareth E. Rees	<i>Unofficial Britain</i>	(Elliot & Thompson)
Monique Roffey	<i>The Mermaid of Black Conch</i>	(Peepal Tree Press)
Francesca Wade	<i>Square Haunting</i>	(Faber & Faber)

This year the Prize and listed works take on perhaps an even greater significance, given the context of the past 12 months, during which we have remained at home, unable to travel to new places or return to the locations that hold a particular meaning for us.

First awarded in 2004, the premise and broad remit of the Prize is to create unique lists of outstanding works and authors that you would not usually find sitting side by side. Previous recipients of the Prize have included **Roger Robinson, Aida Edemariam, Pascale Petit, Francis Spufford, Alan Johnson, Edmund de Waal, Hisham Matar** and **Louisa Waugh**.

The RSL Ondaatje Prize is one of nine annual awards and prizes presented by the RSL which bring the widest possible community of writers and readers together in celebration of the breadth of UK literature. From debut works and unpublished short stories through to the notoriously challenging second novel and outstanding contributions to literature, the RSL's awards and prizes celebrate the value of the written word in all its forms, whilst supporting emerging and established writers at some of the most challenging moments of their careers. The RSL's other annual awards and prizes are: **Sky Arts RSL Writers Awards, RSL International Writers awards, Encore Award, RSL Christopher Bland Prize, RSL Giles St Aubyn Awards for Non-Fiction, RSL Literature Matters Awards, the V.S. Pritchett Short Story Prize** and **The Benson Medal**.

The 2021 RSL Ondaatje Prize Shortlist will be announced on Tuesday 27 April and the winner will be announced on Tuesday 11 May.

For further information and press enquiries relating to the RSL Ondaatje Prize please contact Kate Hassell at Bread and Butter PR
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Notes to Editors

The Royal Society of Literature (RSL)
 Founded in 1820, the RSL acts as a voice for the value of literature, honouring and supporting emerging and established writers whilst creating a bridge between authors and audiences to engage as many people as possible with the breadth of UK literature. <https://rsliterature.org/>

The RSL Ondaatje Prize is an annual award of £10,000 for a distinguished work of fiction, non-fiction or poetry, best evoking the spirit of a place. The RSL is grateful to Sir Christopher Ondaatje for founding and sponsoring the Prize.

Past Winners

2020	Roger Robinson	<i>A Portable Paradise</i>
2019	Aida Edemariam	<i>The Wife's Tale: A Personal History</i>
2018	Pascale Petit	<i>Mama Amazonica</i>

2017	Francis Spufford	<i>Golden Hill</i>
2016	Peter Pomerantsev	<i>Nothing Is True and Everything Is Possible: The Surreal Heart of the New Russia</i>
2015	Justin Marozzi	<i>Baghdad: City of Peace, City of Blood</i>
2014	Alan Johnson	<i>This Boy: A Memoir of Childhood</i>
2013	Philip Hensher	<i>Scenes from Early Life</i>
2012	Rahul Bhattacharya	<i>The Sly Company of People Who Care</i>
2011	Edmund de Waal	<i>The Hare with Amber Eyes</i>
2010	Ian Thomson	<i>The Dead Yard: Tales of Modern Jamaica</i>
2009	Adam Nicolson	<i>Sissinghurst: An Unfinished History</i>
2008	Graham Robb	<i>The Discovery of France</i>
2007	Hisham Matar	<i>In the Country of Men</i>
2006	James Meek	<i>The People's Act of Love</i>
2005	Rory Stewart	<i>The Places In Between</i>
2004	Louisa Waugh	<i>Hearing Birds Fly</i>