

Poetry about roots, violence, loss and light and a new non-fiction imprint coming from flipped eye this summer

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Top L-R: Louisa Adjoa Parker, José Eduardo Agualusa, Gabriel Gbadamosi, Eleanor Penny, Maia Elsner

***Paradise and Other Hells* by José Eduardo Agualusa – 10 June (Essays)**
***Abolition* by Gabriel Gbadamosi – 17 June (Drama)**
***She Can Still Sing* by Louisa Adjoa Parker – 17 June (Poetry)**
***Mercy* by Eleanor Penny – 24 June (Poetry)**
***Overrun by Wild Boars* by Maia Elsner – 15 July (Poetry)**

This summer, **flipped eye** is publishing three poetry collections by some of the most exciting voices in the international poetry landscape – **Eleanor Penny**, **Louisa Adjoa Parker** and **Maia Elsner** – as well as a breath-taking theatrical play by **Gabriel Gbadamosi** reframing Britain's role in the abolition of slavery. In addition, flipped eye is launching a new flagship non-fiction imprint **phipl**, with a collection of essays by International Dublin Literary Award-winning **José Eduardo Agualusa**. One of the most dynamic independent small publishers in the world, flipped eye is dedicated to publishing powerful new voices in affordable volumes.

***Paradise and Other Hells* by José Eduardo Agualusa**

Inaugurating flipped eye's new non-fiction imprint **phipl**, *Paradise and Other Hells* is an irreverent, intelligent and near impish essay collection by **José Eduardo Agualusa**, fizzing with his trademark humour and proboscis-sharp observation (out on 10th June).



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Translated from Portuguese by a team of some of the finest contemporary translators — **Rahul Bery** (David Trueba's *Rolling Fields*), **Andrew McDougall**, **Robin Patterson** (Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis's *Posthumous Memoirs of Brás Cubas*), **Francisco Vilhena** (Adelaide Ivanova's *the hammer and other poems*) and José Eduardo's longtime translator, **Daniel Hahn, OBE** — these musings cast an eye on a wealth of topics: a mugging foiled by laughter; the power of a gesture; the world's oldest tree; Bob Dylan; "Africa's estrangement from itself"; aspects of Rio, Lisbon, Luanda, Berlin.

Written with a convivial spirit, reading this book is akin to sitting next to a sparkling companion at a memorable dinner party, where the meal is secondary to the warm, erudite conversation. *Paradise and Other Hells* is José Eduardo Aqualusa as you've never read him before.

Abolition by Gabriel Gbadamosi

A theatre play reframing Britain's role in the abolition of slavery, *Abolition* by **Gabriel Gbadamosi** (out 17th June) continues to be relevant years after its first staging at Bristol's New Vic in the 1980s.

Set in the year 1792, the play follows the journey of The Blackamoor Jenny out of Liverpool, through its sixth "African voyage". Meanwhile, in the ship of state, the radical abolitionist William Fox and William Wilberforce – more timid than history has remembered him – vigorously debate the urgency of ending the trade in damned souls. "Shakespeare's *Tempest* meets S. I. Martin's *Incomparable World*", *Abolition* is a black Englishman's vision of the English slave trade. It is a vision of a divided nation facing the storms of its own history.

Nigel Leask, Regius Chair of English Language and Literature at Glasgow University said about *Abolition*: "A powerful play that immerses the reader in the historical iniquities of transatlantic slavery without losing dramatic pace and movement. The setting, the politics and especially the language are utterly convincing."

She Can Still Sing by Louisa Adjoa Parker

Louisa Adjoa Parker has been commended by the National Poetry Competition – and twice been shortlisted by the Bridport Prize. Written while Louisa grieved the loss of a friend who took her life after a long struggle with mental illness, *She Can Still Sing* (17th June) is a eulogy that projects from light. One part love letter to the mundane, three parts hymn to the departed, four parts ride of wonderment, these poems celebrate the bonds of friendship and family even as they leave love notes to the departed stuffed into surprising images.

Louisa's connection to the environment is evident in nods to water and the earth's many-coloured bounty of flora – and, right through the pamphlet, there is a clear sense of the passage of time and its maintenance of the natural order of things, the cycle of life. Where there is grief, there is joy, and to lose sight of that might make of one "*beating crimson wings/ against the glass of a window which can never/ be opened*".

The official launch event for Louisa's collection will be a virtual bookshop event organised with **Bookbag Bookshop** in Exeter, in partnership with Africa Writes, on Thursday 17th June.

Mercy by Eleanor Penny

Eleanor Penny is one of the rising stars in the UK's poetry panorama – she has been nominated for the Forward Prize for Poetry and twice shortlisted for Young People's Poet Laureate for London. Eleanor is the founder of the poetry podcast *Bedtime Stories for the End of the World*, asking some of the UK's top poets to re-imagine their favourite myths, fairytales and legends – the stories they want to seal up and protect against rising waters, from nuclear disaster, and from the mundane tragedy of human forgetfulness.



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Her début collection *Mercy* (out on 24th June) is interested in cosmologies of cruelty, love and obsession, of how familial and community memory warps and blooms over time. It's about mother dogs, small gods, pig hearts, pop stars and cannibals.

***Overrun by Wild Boars* by Maia Elsner**

A precocious and arresting début that brims with inquisitive energy and sharp insight, *Overrun by Wild Boars* by **Maia Elsner** (out 15 July) is a search for intimacy and survival in the face of persecution and trauma. Inspired by Maia's stunningly intricate family history that embraces and brings together two faiths, multiple languages, as well as Polish and Mexican mythologies and rich histories, it traces a journey of resilience that runs from ancient Rome via medieval Cairo, Poland in the 30s and Berlin in the 90s to modern London, Mexico City and the streets of New York.

Formally daring and subversively inventive with language, *Overrun by Wild Boars* attempts to grasp what is precious, what is worth clinging on to. The collection cements Maia Elsner as a stunning new voice.

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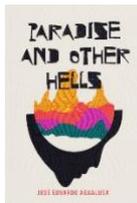
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Notes to editors



PARADISE AND OTHER HELLS by José Eduardo Agualusa

Published by phipl, the non-fiction imprint of flipped eye

Essay Collection, priced £7.99

ISBN: 9780956318800

10th June 2021



ABOLITION by Gabriel Gbadamosi

Published by flipped eye

Play, priced £7.99

ISBN: 9781905233670

17th June 2021



SHE CAN STILL SING by Louisa Adjoa Parker

Published by the flap series, the pamphlet series of flipped eye

Poetry Pamphlet, priced £4

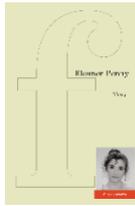
ISBN: 9781905233615

17th June 2021



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MERCY by Eleanor Penny

Published by the flap series, the pamphlet series of flipped eye

Poetry Pamphlet, priced £4

ISBN: 9781905233649

24th June 2021



OVERRUN BY WILD BOARS by Maia Elsner

Published by flipped eye

Poetry Collection, priced £6.95

ISBN: 9781905233717

15th July 2021

About flipped eye

Founded in 2001 by Nii Ayikwei Parkes, an editor and award-winning writer, flipped eye publishing has won global critical acclaim, playing a key role in developing poets such as Inua Ellams, Malika Booker, Miriam Nash, Nick Makoha and Warsan Shire.

Always at the forefront of innovation in the publishing world, they were one of the first publishers in the world to have a regular subscription mailing list (in 2005) as well as a regular podcast – the hugely popular Poem of the Week Redux, with readings from the likes of Roger Robinson, Warsan Shire, Inua Ellams and Malika Booker – in 2010.

Through their diversity and commitment, they have been one of the most imitated small presses in the UK for years. Their *mouthmark* poetry series – a ground-breaking, goal-focussed chapbook collection – revolutionised pamphlet publishing in the UK. Launched in 2004 with the first book released in 2005, it was the first time that a series was dedicated to developing writers with a slant towards transposing the energy of the stage to the page. The goal-focussed approach has since been imitated by the likes of Tall Lighthouse and Faber, but what remains unique about the *mouthmark* series, which unveiled the likes of Inua Ellams, Warsan Shire, Nick Makoha and Malika Booker, is that it was run on an incredible budget of £300 per title, and sold on at an affordable price of just £4.

Their writers are Latinx, Queer, White, Intersex, degree holders, graduates from the school of life, Black, Gay, old, young, Asian, Straight... and they all feel heard and at home with flipped eye publishing, expressing themselves with freedom, creating affirming and challenging work.

About the authors

José Eduardo Agualusa

José Eduardo Agualusa is an Angolan writer, acclaimed for his novels and journalism. One of the leading literary voices in Angola and the Portuguese-speaking world, his work is noteworthy for the way it reimagines colonial and contemporary histories in Angola, Brazil, Mozambique, Portugal and Goa. Born in Huambo during colonial rule, Agualusa moved to Lisbon in 1975 to study Silviculture and Agronomy. There began his literary career, during which he published poetry and short stories. Written in the spirit of magical realism, his fiction seeks to re-create the everydayness of Angolan colonial society, while inserting fantastical events with allegorical purposes. His novel *Creole* was awarded the Portuguese Grand Prize for Literature, *The Book of Chameleons* won the Independent Foreign Fiction Prize (the first African writer to win the award since its inception) and *A General Theory of Oblivion* won the DUBLIN Literary Award and was shortlisted for the Man Booker International Prize.



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Gabriel Gbadamosi

Gabriel Gbadamosi is an Irish-Nigerian poet and playwright. His London novel *Vauxhall* (Telegram, 2013) won the Tibor Jones Pageturner Prize and Best International Novel at the Sharjah Book Fair. Plays include *Stop and Search* (Arcola Theatre, London), *Eshu's Faust* (Jesus College, Cambridge), *Hotel Orpheu* (Schaubühne, Berlin), *Shango* (DNA, Amsterdam) and for radio *The Long, Hot Summer of '76* (BBC Radio 3) which won the first Richard Imison Award. He presented BBC Radio 3's flagship arts and ideas programme *Night Waves*, and is Founding Editor of *WritersMosaic*, commissioning and promoting black, Asian and minority ethnic writers for the Royal Literary Fund.

Louisa Adjoa Parker

Louisa is a British writer and poet of Ghanaian and English heritage who lives in south west England. She's the author of poetry collections (*Salt-sweat and Tears*, *How to wear a skin*) as well as short story collections (*Stay with me*). Louisa's work has appeared in a wide range of journals and anthologies including *Envoi*; *Wasafiri*; *Acumen*; *Under the Radar*; *Out of Bounds* (Bloodaxe); *Ink, Sweat and Tears*; *Filigree* and *Closure* (Peepal Tree Press); and *New Daughters of Africa* (Myriad). She has been highly commended by the Forward Prize, twice shortlisted by the Bridport Prize, and commended by the National Poetry Competition 2019 for her grief poem, *Kindness*. Louisa is also working on a coastal memoir (an extension of her essay, *At the water's edge*) to be published by Little Toller Books in 2021.

Eleanor Penny

Eleanor Penny is a writer based in London. She writes essays, journalism, fiction and poetry. Awards for her poetry include the Verve Poetry Festival Prize 2020 and the Poetry London Prize, and she has been nominated for a Forward Prize 2021. She was a member of Barbican Young Poets, and was twice shortlisted for Young People's Poet Laureate for London. Commissions include the Poetry School, the Barbican and the Centre 4 Recent Drawing. She's the founder and host of the poetry podcast *Bedtime Stories for the End of the World*. She co-edited a book of the same name, illustrated by Inkquisitive and published in November 2020 by Studio Press. She is working on her first novel as part of the London Writers Awards 2021. She is currently researching the history of ports and shipping as part of an ongoing literature project *Albion*, funded by Arts Council England.

Maia Elsner

Maia Elsner was born in London to Mexican and Polish Jewish parents, and began writing poetry while living in Massachusetts, USA. Three of her grandparents were refugees, and much of her work explores the dislocation of people, histories, languages and objects. She has been published in British, American, Canadian and Irish journals, most recently in *Magma*, *The Maine Review*, *Tinderbox* and *Poetry Ireland*, and anthologized in *Crossing lines: an anthology of Immigrant Poetry* (Broken Sleep Books, 2021), *Field Notes on Survival* (Bad Betty Press, 2020) and *Un Nuevo Sol: British LatinX Writers* (2019), among others. She was a finalist for the 2020 Brett Elizabeth Jenkins Poetry Prize, and shortlisted for the 2020 Mairtín Crawford Award in Poetry and the 2020 Bridport Poetry Prize. Currently, she is making a collaborative film-poetry project and working on translating Latin American poetry into English.