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**Ledbury Poetry Prize – For Second Collections**

Ledbury Poetry Festival is pleased to announce the third edition of the Ledbury Poetry Prize for second collections published in Britain and Ireland in 2019 and 2020. The Judges are Naomi Shihab Nye and Sandeep Parmar. The deadline for publisher submissions is **Friday** **26 February 2021**. **Publishers are welcome to send copies initially as PDFs.** However if you prefer to post books, please send three copies of each second collection to **Chloe Garner, Ledbury Poetry Festival, The Master’s House, Ledbury HR8 1EA**. One copy will be sent to each judge and one copy kept by Ledbury Poetry Festival for reference and publicity purposes. **PDFs should be emailed to** **director@poetry-festival.co.uk****.**

This prize aims to support and encourage poets at the ‘mid-career’ stage, with a shortlist and a prize of £5000 for the winning second collection. In assessing the shortlisted second collections, the judges will also read the poets’ first collections and take account of how their work has developed from debut to second book. The shortlisted poets will be invited to read at an online Prize Giving event as part of Ledbury Poetry Festival when the judges, Naomi Shihab Nye and Sandeep Parmar will announce the winner.

Previous winners of the prize are Sandeep Parmar (2015/6) judged by Vahni Capildeo and Tara Bergin and A.K Blakemore (2017/8) judged by Lachlan Mackinnon and Linda Gregerson. The prize is highly valued by publishers and has proven that it can shine a light on collections that might otherwise be overlooked. The importance of the prize is reflected in the judges’ comments below:

Sandeep Parmar says, “I'm so pleased to co-judge the Ledbury Poetry Prize for Second Collections, which is a prize that uniquely tracks the maturing of a poet's voice beyond their (often more visible) debut collections. A second collection can be an opportunity for the poet's imagination to free itself from expectations, take risks by shaking off traditional structures and modes to open up new ways going forward. It can be a telling hinge in a poet's career and a sign of innovations to come, whether that book becomes a discrete project onto itself or a continued conversation with its readership. I look forward to seeing what these poets produced when they returned to their desks and once again face the blank page...”

Naomi Shihab Nye says, “It's often easy to begin, but harder to continue.  I'm happy to judge a prize which respects the continuance of a writer's practice, a voice unfolding beyond the joyous flush of a first book. May we all feel fortified to continue the work which nourishes us. I am honored to be judging with Sandeep Parmar - please know we will read your work with greatest appreciation.”

**SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

All books submitted must fulfil the entry guidelines

1. Publishers should send three copies of each submitted second collection to Ledbury Poetry Festival no later than Friday 26 February 2021. Initially, books can be submitted by PDF or by post.

2. Books must have been published in the UK or Ireland in 2019 or 2020, and cannot have been published anywhere else first.

3. A second collection is defined as a book-length collection with a spine of 48 or more pages by a poet who has previously published a first book-length with a spine of 48 or more pages.

4. The submission form must be signed by a director or owner of the publishing house.

5. A shortlist of six titles will be drawn up by judges Naomi Shihab Nye and Sandeep Parmar and announced by Ledbury Poetry Festival. At this point, LPF will ask the publishers of the six shortlisted collections to send up to three copies of the poets’ first collections, or will seek to obtain copies for the judges if the first collection was issued by a different publisher.

6. The poets on the shortlist will be invited to read with the prize judges at an event at Ledbury Poetry Festival when the winner of the prize will be announced and the winner’s cheque for £5000 will be presented.

**JUDGES BIOGRAPHIES:**

**Naomi Shihab Nye**
Naomi Shihab Nye, current Young People's Poet Laureate of the United States (Poetry Foundation) was honored to be poet-in-residence at Ledbury Poetry Festival in 2013. She is on faculty at Texas State University. Her most recent books are *Everything Comes Next - Collected & New Poems,* *Cast Away,* and *The Tiny Journalist,* which won both Texas Poetry Prizes in 2020.

**Sandeep Parmar**

Sandeep Parmar is Professor of English Literature at the University of Liverpool where she co-directs Liverpool’s Centre for New and International Writing. She is a fellow of the RSL and RSA. She has published two poetry collections:*The Marble Orchard*and *Eidolon,*winner of the Ledbury Poetry Prize for Best Second Collection. She has edited and written books on the modernist poets Mina Loy, Hope Mirrlees and Nancy Cunard. Her essays and reviews have appeared in the *Guardian*, *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The New Statesman,*the *Financial Times* and the *Times Literary Supplement.*She is a BBC New Generation Thinker and co-founder of the Ledbury Poetry Critics scheme for poetry critics of colour.

 