

For Immediate Release: 6 June 2024



WOMEN'S PRIZE TRUST UNVEILS 'THE CHARLOTTE' CREATED BY ANN CHRISTOPHER RA FRSS

London, 6 June 2024: The Women's Prize Trust – the registered charity which creates equitable opportunities for women in the world of books and beyond, and masterminds the Women's Prize for Fiction and the inaugural Women's Prize for Non-Fiction – today unveils 'The Charlotte', a bronze-cast sculpture created by acclaimed artist Ann Christopher RA FRSS. This compelling, limited-edition work of art, commissioned and funded by the Charlotte Aitken Trust, will be presented to the winner of the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction on 13 June at the Women's Prize Summer Party in central London, where the winner of the Women's Prize for Fiction will also be announced.

Chosen after a competition arranged in association with the Royal Society of Sculptors, the British charity which promotes excellence in the art and practice of sculpture, Ann Christopher's abstract design was meticulously crafted in resin, before being cast in bronze and coated with a patina to achieve a rusty red hue. This sculpture will be re-cast annually by a specialist British-based foundry and presented to each year's winner of the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

Christopher's creative practice draws on decades of experience, producing elegant, imaginative and powerful works of sculpture. She has been an elected member of the Royal Academy of Arts since 1980, a Royal Academician since 1989 and a Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors since 1992. She accepts private and public commissions from across the UK, USA and France and has exhibited in London, New York and France. Christopher is currently coordinating the 256th Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy.

Ann Christopher RA FRSS, Sculptor, said: *'I was thrilled to have been chosen to create 'The Charlotte', an award for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction. The non-fiction book will by default contain information which will reward the inquisitive mind of the reader – a voyage of discovery. As a non-figurative sculptor, I absorb and re-interpret the visual world around me and on this occasion, I have produced a small sculpture with textures echoing rock strata and a shape that nods to ancient tools. The final bronze sculpture being patinated a deep rusty red. Figurative and non-figurative art provide a lens through which the viewer may see the world in a different way, similar to non-fiction or fiction. I am delighted that my sculpture has now become part of this non-fiction world.'*

Kate Mosse CBE, novelist, non-fiction writer and Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction and Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, added: *'Ann Christopher has created a compelling piece of art that brilliantly encapsulates the timeless nature of knowledge and storytelling. Presented for the first time this year, a sister to 'The Bessie', it will be a wonderful moment to celebrate the past and the present working together to honour women's creativity in both literature and art.'*

Rachel Cugnoni, Grant Director of the Charlotte Aitken Trust, said: *'The Charlotte Aitken Trust would like to thank Ann Christopher for her energisngly beautiful design in creating 'The Charlotte'. We would also like to thank the Royal Society of Sculptors for the role they played in steering us through this fascinating creative process. It's been an enlightening experience working together to celebrate women's creativity in both art and literature and we look forward to seeing 'The Charlotte' on the podium next to 'The Bessie' on 13 June and in the years to come.'*

Over almost thirty years, the Women's Prize has changed the landscape of women's fiction writing and now with the launch of its new non-fiction prize, the Women's Prize Trust aims to provide a similar platform for amplify and promote non-fiction writing to the widest possible number of readers. The Women's Prize for Non-Fiction celebrates excellent writing, originality, rigorous research and accessibility in all forms of narrative non-fiction. Books must be the work of a single author and be published in the UK between 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. Alongside 'The Charlotte', the winner will receive £30,000 prize money, both gifted by the Charlotte Aitken Trust. The 2024 Women's Prize for Non-Fiction is sponsored by Findmypast and has been partially funded by a generous one-off donation from an individual donor, Jason Bartholomew.

The Women's Prize for Non-fiction, which has long been an aim of the Women's Prize Trust, was in part born out of research released in 2023 which demonstrated that female non-fiction writers are less likely to be reviewed in the UK national media and less likely to be shortlisted, or win book prizes, than their male counterparts. Female writers have

not only received lower advances than men over the last five years, but have also seen a sharper drop in their median earnings in this same period compared to male writers.

Notes to editors

Women's Prize for Non-Fiction 2024:

- Chaired by award-winning historian, author and broadcaster Professor Suzannah Lipscomb
- Judging panel also includes: Venetia La Manna, Professor Nicola Rollock, Anne Sebba and Kamila Shamsie,
- Winner announced: 13 June
- The launch of the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction was part-based on research conducted by the Women's Prize Trust. Click [here](#) for more information

Ann Christopher:

- Instagram: @annchristopher.sculptor
- Website: www.annchristopher.co.uk

'The Bessie':

- 'The Bessie' was gifted to the Women's Prize for Fiction by sculptor Grizel Niven in 1996.
- So far, twenty-nine writers have been presented with the eleven-centimetre statuette cast in bronze.
- The prize money for the WPF was anonymously endowed in 1996.

For further information, please contact Christian Lewis christian@womensprize.com

If you are interested in collaborating with the Women's Prize Trust – or to discuss sponsorship opportunities – please contact Executive Director Claire Shanahan claire@womensprize.com

About the Women's Prize Trust

The Women's Prize Trust is the registered charity that enriches society by creating equitable opportunities for women in the world of books and beyond. We work with women writers at all stages of development, and all readers, to unlock potential, boost confidence, and increase skills and knowledge. The charity is behind the Women's Prize for Fiction, the largest celebration of women's creativity in the world, and the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, the inaugural prize launched to champion women's expertise and authority. As a result, we are developing a global community of women writers and readers, reducing social isolation and enhancing mental health and wellbeing.

Claire Shanahan is Executive Director of the Women's Prize Trust; Anna Rafferty is Chair of the Board; Kate Mosse CBE is Founder Director for the Women's Prize for Fiction and Women's Prize for Non-Fiction and Chair of Discoveries.

In addition to commercial sponsorship, individual donors, trusts and foundations support the work of the Trust. More information about donating to the Trust can be found [here](#).

About Findmypast

The UK's leading family tree company, Findmypast is used by millions around the world to research family stories. Customers can explore over 14 billion historical records from prestigious libraries and archives, including exclusive national censuses, newspapers, military records, passenger lists, and much more. An innovative family tree, smart search tools, and personalised hints and tips make it easy to get started. Sign up for a free trial today and find out where your past will take you. More information can be found [here](#).

About the Charlotte Aitken Trust

[The Charlotte Aitken Trust](#) is a charitable foundation set up by the celebrated literary agent Gillon Aitken in his late daughter's name. The purpose of the Trust, as defined by Gillon, is to support, encourage, sustain and promote literary creativity in all its forms. The Trust was established in 2020 and since then has given grants and created associations with The Brontë Parsonage, the Forward Poetry Prize, the RNIB, the Young Vic and The Sunday Times Young Writer of the Year Award among others. The board of trustees is Sebastian Faulks (Chair), Clare Alexander, Rachel Cugnoni, Nick Feeny, Lauren Howard and Simon Murray.