

For Immediate Release: Wednesday 17 January 2024



**WOMEN'S PRIZE TRUST ANNOUNCES
ANN CHRISTOPHER RA FRSS
WINNING SCULPTOR COMMISSIONED TO CREATE 'THE
CHARLOTTE'**

London, Wednesday 17 January 2024: The Women's Prize Trust – the registered charity which champions equity for women in the world of books and masterminds the annual Women's Prize for Fiction and Women's Prize for Non-Fiction – today announces the winning artist nominated to create 'The Charlotte', the award to be cast in bronze which will be presented to each winner of the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

Ann Christopher was chosen to create a limited edition sculpture by a panel of judges. She will also receive a prize of £10,000, awarded by the Charlotte Aitken Trust who oversaw the competition, in association with the Royal Society of Sculptors and the Women's Prize Trust.

Ann Christopher studied at Harrow School of Art and West of England College of Art. She became an elected member of the Royal Academy of Arts in 1980, a Royal Academician in 1989 and a Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors in 1992. She accepts both public and private commissions from across the UK, USA and France and has exhibited in London, New York and France. *Edge and Line* was her first solo exhibition in New York in 2019. Ann will coordinate the 256th Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy in 2024.

The judging panel to select 'The Charlotte' was chaired by Laura Ford, President of the Royal Society of Sculptors. She was joined by Clare Alexander, Literary Agent and Charlotte Aitken Trust trustee; Rachel Cugnoni, Grant Director of the Charlotte Aitken Trust; Sebastian Faulks, novelist and Chair of the Charlotte Aitken Trust; and Kate Mosse,

novelist, non-fiction writer and Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction and the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction. Together, they chose a shortlist of three artists - comprising Ann Christopher - from a longlist of submissions from Royal Society of Sculptors members. Each shortlisted sculptor was tasked with creating a maquette which was presented to the judging panel. 'The Charlotte' will be revealed on 13 June 2024.

Laura Ford, President of the Royal Society of Sculptors, said: *'We are excited to have chosen such a celebrated and distinguished artist for this commission and we look forward to seeing the final piece which will be revealed at the Women's Prize Summer Party.'*

Rachel Cugnoni, Grant Director of the Charlotte Aitken Trust, said: *'The Charlotte Aitken Trust was set up by the celebrated Literary Agent, Gillon Aitken, in honour of his daughter and so to have one beautiful piece of art - The Charlotte - created to celebrate some of the best writing in the English language is something I am certain he would be enormously proud of. We, the trustees, share that pride.'*

Kate Mosse, novelist, non-fiction writer and Founder Director of the Women's Prize for Fiction and Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, added: *'It was a wonderful experience to see the sketches from each of the artists brought to life, and no easy task to decide which to choose. In the end, we loved Ann's vision. I cannot wait to see 'The Charlotte' sharing the stage with 'The Bessie' for the first time at our awards ceremony for both prizes in June.'*

Over almost thirty years, the Women's Prize has changed the landscape of women's fiction writing and now with the launch of a new non-fiction prize, the Women's Prize Trust aims to provide a similar platform for non-fiction writers. By leveraging the power of the Women's Prize brand to become the home of women's voices, the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction will celebrate excellence, originality, rigorous research and accessibility in all forms of narrative non-fiction - from science, smart-thinking, politics, biography and history, to memoir, sport, music, nature writing, faith and philosophy. Books must be the work of a single author and be published in the UK between 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

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:

- 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,
- Longlist announced: 15 February
- Shortlist announced: 27 March
- Winner announced: 13 June

Women's Prize for Fiction:

- Chaired by award-winning author Monica Ali
- Judging panel also includes: Ayòbámi Adébáyò, Monica Ali, Laura Dockrill, Indira Varma and Anna Whitehouse
- Longlist announced: 5 March
- Shortlist announced: 24 April
- Winner announced: 13 June

Ann Christopher:

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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 for Non-Fiction

The **Women's Prize for Non-Fiction** is awarded annually for the best work of narrative non-fiction written in English and published in the United Kingdom between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024. The winner receives a cheque for £30,000 and a limited-edition artwork known as 'The Charlotte', both gifted by the Charlotte Aitken Trust. The Prize celebrates excellence in writing and research, strong and original narrative voices, and accessibility. The 2024 Women's Prize for Fiction is sponsored by Findmypast.

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 is Founder Director for the Women's Prize for Fiction and Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

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.

About The Royal Society of Sculptors

The Royal Society of Sculptors is an artist-led, membership organisation created more than 100 years ago to champion contemporary sculpture and the artists who create it. They provide a supportive membership community to sculptors throughout their careers, offering access to expert advice, training, bursaries, residencies and awards. The Society leads the conversation about sculpture today through exhibitions and events for all. Today it welcomes everyone interested in exploring this art form and its many possibilities. The Royal Society of Sculptors is based in London's South Kensington, in a beautiful listed building, Dora House, that hosts an array of exhibitions, artists' talks and creative workshops.