



for immediate release: 29/6/20

## **Edwin Morgan receives a 'second life' with new commissions and awards**

The Edwin Morgan Centenary celebrations continue, with the first 9 grants for The Second Life and the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award shortlist announced, along with a new video featuring new poems from LGBT+ poets responding to Edwin Morgan's concrete poetry.

### **FIRST RELEASE OF THE SECOND LIFE ARTIST GRANTS**

The Edwin Morgan Trust have announced the first recipients of the centenary artist grant scheme for #EdwinMorgan100, which aims to give Edwin Morgan's work a 'second life' through innovative responses from a range of Scottish creatives. Eight of these artists will receive £1500 to respond to Edwin Morgan's life and work through [The Second Life](#) grants (the title taken from Morgan's breakthrough 1968 collection), supported by [Creative Scotland](#), with one artist receiving £2500 from the [Saltire Society's](#) Inspiring Scotland fund.

**Ink Asher Hemp, Clementine E Burnley, Vlad Butucea, Ray Camara Taylor, Sekai Machache, Ishbel McFarlane, Nazia Mohammad** and duo **Sara Shaarawi and Henry Bell** have each been awarded £1,500 grants from [Creative Scotland](#) to creatively respond to Edwin Morgan's archives, life and work. **Sequoia Barnes** has been awarded the £2,500 [Saltire Society's](#) 'Inspiring Scotland' grant, to develop work with [The Fruitmarket Gallery](#), Edinburgh. The artists' biographical notes and responses are included in notes for editors below.

The second release of The Second Life grants will be in response to an open call, deadline is July 20, 2020. <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/2020/05/18/the-second-life-open-call/>

### **Comment:**

Visual artist and curator Sekai Machache said: 'I am particularly humbled to have been nominated to respond to Edwin Morgan's work because it's incredibly important in terms of Scottish heritage and identity. As an artist of colour whose work interrogates the notion of self and belonging, it is refreshing to be invited to engage with the work of a celebrated Scottish writer whose work paints a beautiful and dynamic portrait of the country that I call home but that rarely claims me as its own.'

Theatre maker Ink Asher Hemp said: 'For me Edwin Morgan was a name above a door. Therefore not for me. And yet, from the little I have learnt already, his work is some of the most accessible I have come across. I am thrilled to have the opportunity to experience Morgan's work beyond exam papers and rehearsing in studios named after him... super excited to take it outside any kind of syllabus and into today.'



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## **HOLD HANDS AMONG THE ATOMS CELEBRATES PRIDE WITH NEW VIDEO 'THE CONCRETE WORLD OF EDWIN MORGAN'**

The Edwin Morgan Centenary's online centenary video channel has been keeping Edwin Morgan Centenary celebrations alive virtually, with new video content each month. Edited by Glasgow-based video artist Aideen Doran, each release celebrates a different aspect of Edwin Morgan's life and work.

The third video of the series is a collaboration between the **National Poetry Library** and the Edwin Morgan Trust. Featuring new work from poets **Chris Beckett**, **Caroline Bergvall**, **Keith Jarrett** and **Richard Scott**, *The Concrete World of Edwin Morgan* celebrates Edwin Morgan's role in the concrete poetry movement and the warmth and humour that he brings to his visual work. Coinciding with LGBT Pride month 2020, the commissioned poems also celebrate Edwin Morgan's sexuality, and explore the new depths of reading that can be reached with this in mind.

### **Comment:**

Chris McCabe from the National Poetry Library said: 'Although we can't open the doors as planned on our exhibition *The Concrete World of Edwin Morgan*, we are delighted to have commissioned four of the UK's most exciting poets to respond to Morgan's life and work.

'Morgan came out when he was 70 and his poems have been an influence on subsequent generations of LGBT+ poets. He was also one of the most significant concrete poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and it is these two areas of his life and work that are the focus for these new commissions.'

## **EDWIN MORGAN POETRY AWARD SHORTLIST REVEALED**

The Edwin Morgan Trust is delighted to announce the poets shortlisted for [the Edwin Morgan Poetry Award 2020](#): **Colin Bramwell**, **Michael Grieve**, **Kirsten Kerr**, **David Linklater**, **Paul Malgrati**, **Alycia Pirmohamed** and **Stewart Sanderson**.

With a prize of £20,000, the biennial Edwin Morgan Poetry Award is one of the largest in the UK. Scotland's first modern Makar (national poet), Morgan specified that the award to be funded through his estate should be given to a Scottish or Scotland-based poet under the age of thirty. Never forgetting his difficulties in his early years as a poet, he wanted to lend a helping hand to promising poets at what can be a discouraging period in their career.

### **Comment:**

Judges Kathleen Jamie and John Glenday said: 'Not only is it Morgan's centenary year (we would have loved to read the poem he would have written for that, as he did for his eightieth!) but it is also a year of unprecedented global challenge. So, it is doubly relevant that we remember Morgan's bequest was designed to encourage young talent to blossom. The difficulties of today mean we will need the poets of tomorrow as never before.'



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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

- The Second Life Grant recipients were selected by a cultural advisory panel, who put forward nominations for creative practitioners who are doing exciting work in their field and would benefit from the commission to find some inspiration and alignment within Edwin Morgan's legacy. This panel included Hannah Lavery (Scottish Poetry Library, poet and playwright), Iain Morrison (Fruitmarket Gallery, poet), Robert Softley Gale and Mairi Taylor (Birds of Paradise Theatre), Eoin Dara (DCA), and Seona McClintock (Producer, Gaelic and Traditional Arts Eden Court).
- The Concrete World of Edwin Morgan <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/2020/06/28/the-concrete-world-of-edwin-morgan/> and on You Tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20O3lQQV91o&t=15s>
- The Second Life grant recipient bios:

### [Sequoia Barnes](#) - Scholar/Creative

Sequoia Barnes' work is predominately centered around making processes, diasporic rituals, and modes of fashioning. Her most recent work speaking to these elements were her artist responses to Senga Nengudi (Fruitmarket Gallery) and Nick Cave (Tramway) with performative works entitled *Sew Me A Quilt. Tell You A Story.* (2019) and *The Burden I Bear Is Heavy* (2019), respectively.

### [Ink Asher Hemp](#) - Theatre Maker

Ink is a white, queer, trans, disabled creator, storyteller, activist, Theatre (trouble) maker. Listening to today to construct tomorrow. Ink works with Activising for Change and is currently a member of the BOP Young Artists programme. Previous projects include Graeae's *Crips Without Constraints* and *Cognitive Forgery* at Stills Gallery. They stay in Edinburgh next door to 3 pigeons and a baby.

### [Clementine E Burnley](#) - Writer, performer, activist

Clementine E. Burnley is a migrant writer, and community organiser. She's been shortlisted for the Bath Flash Fiction Award, First Pages Prize, Amsterdam Open Book Prize, and the Bristol Short Story Prize. Her most recent work appears in the National Flash Fiction Anthology, *Ink, Sweat and Tears*, and *Barren Magazine*.

### [Vlad Butucea](#) – Writer

Vlad Butucea is a Glasgow-based, Romanian-born writer and academic. Formerly mentored by Playwrights' Studio Scotland, Vlad made his professional debut writing one part of National Theatre Scotland's sci-fi trilogy *Interference* (2019). His new play *Silkworm* is set to premiere at the 2021 Edinburgh Festival Fringe. He is working towards a PhD in queer digital theatre at the University of Glasgow.

### [Ray Camara Taylor](#) - Artist, curator and researcher

Camara Taylor is an artist/curator who primarily produces moving-image, text and interdisciplinary events. Recent works focus on politics and practices produced in



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Black waters, rumour, gossip and lower frequencies of objection.

[Sekai Machache](#) - Visual Artist and Curator

Sekai Machache is a visual artist and curator based between Dundee and Glasgow, Scotland. Her work is a deep interrogation of the notion of self. She is interested in the relationship between spirituality, imagination and the role of the artist in disseminating symbolic imagery to provide a space for healing. Sekai works with a wide range of media including performance and photography.

[Ishbel McFarlane](#) - Writer and theatre maker

Ishbel McFarlane is a writer, theatre maker, activist and performer from Kinross, now based in Glasgow, and working in Scots and English... Her creative work focuses on intersectional feminism, language, place and history. Ishbel won the Arches Platform 18 Award for her show *O is for Hoolet*, about her experiences with Scots language. From 2017-2018 she also toured her interactive show about post-war concrete, New Towns and utopias, *Plan*, with the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

[Nazia Mohammad](#) - Artist

Nazia Mohammad is a multimedia artist with an interest in designing aesthetics that anchor moments of spiritual enlightenment and darkness. Recent explorations have been with alabaster, metal and porcelain considering combinations of chaos and calm/movement and stillness/strength and fragility/emptiness and fullness. Current curiosities include the dream space, ritual practices and holistic philosophies.

[Sarah Shaarawi and Henry Bell](#) - (CHILL HABIBI)

Sara Shaarawi is a playwright and producer from Cairo who is now based in Glasgow. Her work has been performed in Glasgow, Edinburgh and London. She has received a Playwrights' Studio Scotland's New Playwright's Award, and a Starter programme bursary from the National Theatre of Scotland. Other credits include project managing the Arab Arts Focus showcase at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival 2017.

Henry Bell lives in Glasgow's Southside; his poetry has appeared widely in magazines and anthologies, and his biography *John Maclean: hero of red Clydeside* was published by Pluto in 2018. He is the managing editor of *Gutter Magazine* and has edited books including *A Bird is Not a Stone*, a collection of Palestinian poetry in translation. His work deals with themes of personal and political liberation.

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