



for immediate release: 1/3/21

## **'Change Rules' Edwin Morgan's Centenary year shows new ways of celebrating Scotland's first Makar**

It was all change from the beginning of the centenary year, when the global pandemic forced a leap online for the Edwin Morgan Centenary. The Centenary launched on April 27, 2020 with a mass social media blitz which saw #EdwinMorgan trending in Scotland, and the programme has continued to celebrate Edwin Morgan's life and work in new ways, despite lockdown restrictions. With 14 digital offerings available to watch via the '[Hold Hands Among The Atoms](#)' channel, and the commissioning of [20 new creative works](#), the Edwin Morgan Centenary has shown that it's possible to 'push the boat out' even in unprecedented circumstances.

### **'EMERGE AND SHINE'**

The Edwin Morgan Centenary will end on April 27, 2021: two more months of showcasing exciting new voices and international collaborations. These include a new choral arrangement from composer Gavin Bryars, twenty new works from Scottish creatives who have received a Second Life grant, along with conversations at [Paisley Book Festival](#), the [University of Glasgow](#), [StAnza](#) and [Open Book Reading](#), a workshop with [Scottish Writers Centre](#), plus a poetry competition for poets 40 and over run by [Glasgow's Gutter magazine](#) and a launch and closing celebration for [The Second Life projects](#) with The Fruitmarket Gallery and Neu! Reekie!

### **CELTIC CONNECTIONS REVISITED**

In association with Edinburgh International Book Festival, Celtic Connections commissioned a new choral piece from internationally acclaimed composer **Gavin Bryars**. The performance of the piece had to be postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions, but Celtic Connections is hoping to release the work as part of the Edwin Morgan Centenary.

**Comment: Creative director, Donald Shaw** said 'We are hoping that this exciting piece, based on Morgan's poems and titled "Sonnets from Scotland", performed by the choir of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, will be staged as a part of the Edwin Morgan Centenary. We will be releasing a performance date as soon as we are able.'

### **THE SECOND LIFE**

Twenty new works by Second Life grant recipients will be released over the next 8 weeks. Over the coming months we can expect to see immersive animated videos, Morganesque poems generated from an artificial intelligence algorithm, love poems translated into Gaelic, choreographed responses, traditional, experimental and classical musical responses, podcasts, literature and sculptural works. The full listing can be viewed here: <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/2020/12/18/the-second-life-projects/>, and new works will be released on the Edwin Morgan website here: <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/category/tsl/>

The Edwin Morgan Centenary has released a very special LGBT History Month celebration from writer **Andrés N Ordorica**, who has created three film poems which speak to queerness, belonging,



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and immigration. <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/2021/02/26/andres-ordorica-3-poems-after-edwin-morgan/>

Artist **Sasha Saben Callaghan** has created a video (available with close captions and audio descriptions) that explores Edwin Morgan's scrapbooks, and invites disabled people to respond by creating their own collages, sharing them on social media using the hashtag #morethanimagesem100 and tagging @edmorgantrust. <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/2021/02/14/sasha-saben-callaghan/>

Theatre maker and writer **Ishbel McFarlane** has created a podcast about the life and context of Scottish poet and translator, Edwin Morgan. Taking his breakthrough poetry collection, *The Second Life*, as a starting point, presenter Ishbel McFarlane explores the personal and professional world that influenced Morgan. <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/2021/02/25/ishbel-mcfarlane-edwin-morgans-second-life-2/>

There are 17 more projects to be released over the coming weeks, please get in touch for more information.

**Comment: Siân McIntyre, Centenary Project Manager** said 'While the Edwin Morgan Centenary was not what we had originally imagined it would be, we have been able to use the changed situation as an opportunity to prioritise supporting new voices. The Second Life grant programme has given 22 artists six months to develop their own paths of connection to Edwin Morgan's work, and as a result we have a really diverse and engaging collection of outcomes – a tribute to Edwin Morgan's legacy.'

#### **A NEW PRIZE FOR POETS OVER 40**

The Edwin Morgan Trust has partnered with *Gutter* magazine to launch '[All things are possible](#)', a [new poetry competition for poets over 40](#). The competition will be judged by Christine De Luca and Janette Ayatchi, is free to enter and offers a prize of £500. The winning poem and ten highly commended poems will be published in Issue 24 of *Gutter* (August 2021).

**Comment: Gutter Editor Kate MacLeary** said 'We're delighted to collaborate on this project with the Edwin Morgan Trust, and in particular to offer a competition pitched exclusively at the over forties. *Gutter* already publishes work from a wide demographic of writers and some of the older poets we've featured are icons of their generation. 'All things are possible' presents a great opportunity for more mature writers to join them in showcasing their talent within the pages of the magazine.'

#### **EVENTS LIST**

**March – April**, phased release of The Second Life projects  
<https://edwinmorgantrust.com/category/tsl/>

**4 March** – The Archive and a Queer History: Giving Edwin Morgan's work a Second Life. Introduced by Professor Louise Welsh, with insight into the UoG Edwin Morgan archive from University of Glasgow Library Archivist Sarah Hepworth and discussion with Centenary Project Manager Siân McIntyre and The Second Life artists Clementine E Burnley, Adrien Howard and Holly Summerson. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-archive-and-a-queer-history-giving-edwin-morgans-work-a-second-life-tickets-142484624347?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



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**6-14 March** – StAnza, Scotland’s international poetry festival, celebrates Edwin Morgan

<https://stanzapoetry.org/festival/events>

**23 March** - Scottish Writers' Centre Workshop with Michael Pedersen using Edwin Morgan texts

<https://www.cca-glasgow.com/programme/scottish-writers-centre-michael-pedersen>

**31 March** – deadline for entries for *Gutter’s* ‘All things are possible’ poetry prize

<https://www.guttermag.co.uk/edwinmorgan100>

**March** – Morgan Month with Open Book Reading

<https://edwinmorgantrust.com/2021/02/23/open-book-x-edwinmorgan100/>

**TBC** – Celtic Connections premiere of Gavin Bryars’s new work

**April 27** – Edwin Morgan Centenary showcase with The Second Life artists in association with [The Fruitmarket Gallery](#) and [Neu! Reekie!](#).

## NOTES FOR EDITORS

- [The Hold Hands Among the Atoms](#) digital centenary channel has generated new conversations about Edwin Morgan’s life and work. The videos celebrate many different angles of Edwin Morgan, with enticing readings, reflections from friends and also new perspectives and voices. At a time when many schools are closed and students find themselves working from home, the videos have become an important resource for students and teachers. The collection also includes programmes from centenary partners, such as The Tron’s five-star virtual promenade performance [high man pen meander](#), The British Library’s discussion [A New Divan](#) and Edinburgh International Book Festival’s [Centenary Celebration](#). The set of over 14 videos ‘opens the doors’ to Edwin Morgan for a new generation.
- February to April will feature a staggered release of projects from The Second Life grant scheme, including works from Adrien Howard, Andrés Ordorica, Anjeli Caderamanpulle, Ann MacDonald and Jenny Johnstone (Stories from Scotland), Beldina Odenyo, Clementine E Burnley, Esther Swift, Helen Charman, Holly Summerson, Ink Asher Hemp, Ishbel McFarlane, Lucy Cash and Luke Pell, Luke Brady, Nazia Mohammad, Ray Camara Taylor, Robbie MacLeod, Sasha Saben Callaghan, Sekai Machache and Sequoia Barnes. Projects are outlined here: <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/category/tsl/> and will be released here: <https://edwinmorgantrust.com/category/tsl/>
- [The Second Life](#) grants (the title taken from Morgan’s breakthrough 1968 collection), are supported by [Creative Scotland](#), The Saltire Society and The Edwin Morgan Trust.

Please contact **Siân McIntyre**, Centenary Programme Manager, for further information: [contact@edwinmorgantrust.com](mailto:contact@edwinmorgantrust.com). (+447464860275). The Edwin Morgan Trust can be found on Twitter [@EdMorganTrust](#), Instagram [@edmorgantrust](#), and Facebook [@edwinmorgantrust](#)