



EMBARGOED UNTIL 00.01 (GMT) WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2019

Kim Scott Walwyn Prize announces its 2019 shortlist of outstanding women in publishing

The Kim Scott Walwyn Prize today names its 2019 shortlist of talented women. The prize, founded in 2003 in honour of Kim Scott Walwyn, former Publishing Director of OUP, recognises the professional achievements and promise of women who have worked in the UK publishing industry for up to seven years.

This year's shortlist demonstrates the dynamism of the independent sector and the power of entrepreneurship whilst being the prize's most diverse shortlist ever.

The 2019 Kim Scott Walwyn Prize shortlist is comprised of
AIMÉE FELONE, co-founder, KNIGHTS OF
AKI SCHILZ, Director, THE LITERARY CONSULTANCY
CRYSTAL MAHEY-MORGAN, co-founder, OWN IT!
HEATHER McDAID and LAURA JONES, co-founders of 404 INK
OLA GOTKOWSKA, Contracts Manager, NOSY CROW

This 2019 shortlist is a list of true change-makers. Each of the shortlistees is notable for developing new business models and funding processes, with a clear awareness of nurturing new partnerships and widening diversity. They demonstrate the changing roles in both the traditional and non-traditional publishing landscape and offer a huge range of talents and skills sets. They are opening up publishing to new voices, increasing representation of unheard and under-represented voices and prove that the most exciting businesses don't have to be in London.

The judges were impressed by the dedication and passion of all the submissions received in 2019.

The judging panel explained why each of the shortlist were selected:

AIMÉE FELONE, co-founder, KNIGHTS OF

In her five years in publishing Aimée Felone has made an astonishing contribution to the industry: not only has Knights Of, the publishing house she co-founded, established itself as a vibrant and inclusive independent publishing house, but in 2017 Aimée also

launched a crowdfund campaign which raised £50,000 to open Brixton's first permanent inclusive children's bookshop. In addition to the management and direction of the company, she contributes energetically beyond the walls of the publishing house, sitting on numerous boards and steering groups dedicated to the creation of a more representative workforce.

AKI SCHILZ, Director, THE LITERARY CONSULTANCY

Aki has impressively dedicated herself to building on Rebecca Swift's huge contribution to literature, not only keeping The Literary Consultancy steady after Rebecca's sad and untimely death but building on her long legacy. At a young age, Aki has shown incredible strength and vision, indeed, The Literary Consultancy could not be in better hands.

CRYSTAL MAHEY-MORGAN, co-owner, OWN IT!

Having first cut her teeth at Penguin Random House, Crystal has demonstrated incredible entrepreneurship, dynamism, creativity and business management in the founding and development of OWN IT! Refusing to be bound by what others might think is the right way to do publishing, Crystal has shown time and again what true innovation looks like in creating a business with a powerful publishing core but that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of readers and authors alike whilst herself being a powerful force for change and good in the industry.

HEATHER McDAID and LAURA JONES, co-founders of 404 INK

The judges decided to include both Laura and Heather as one entry in this year shortlist. When reading each of their applications, it was clear how the success of 404 Ink was due to the exceptional work of two incredibly talented partners. Laura and Heather's entrepreneurship and commitment to a different kind of publishing made them stand out. They are a fantastic example of innovative thinking and have contributed to the thriving of the Scottish publishing scene greatly, putting transparency and new voices at the heart of what they do.

OLA GOTKOWSKA, Contracts Manager, NOSY CROW

The judges were incredibly impressed not only by Ola's stellar achievements in the sale of rights but also by the fortitude and courage with which she has adapted to her changing life circumstances. It was obvious from the genuine praise she has received from all quarters that she is a joy to work with, a real and demonstrable asset to a publishing house, and an inspiring mentor to more junior colleagues.

Founded in 2003, the Prize honours the life and career of Kim Scott Walwyn, who was Publishing Director at Oxford University Press and who died in 2002 at the age of 45. The Prize is run in partnership with the **Society of Young Publishers** (SYP). The winner of the Prize receives £1000, sponsored by the SYP.

The **judging panel** comprised 2017 winner Alice Curry; Ain Deheb Bensenouci (2018 Chair of the Society of Young Publishers and Senior Academic Partnership Manager at Epigeum); and prize committee members Rukhsana Yasmin (Deputy Editor of *Wasafiri*

Magazine and winner of the 2012 Prize), Julia Kingsford (Co-founder of Kingsford Campbell and The Good Agency); and Emma Paterson (Agent at Aitken Alexander Associates). The panel was co-chaired by **Catherine Clarke**, Agent and MD of Felicity Bryan Associates, and **Denise Johnstone-Burt**, Publisher at Walker Books.

The **winner announcement** will be on Tuesday 28 May 2019 at a prize ceremony at Stationers' Hall in central London, with a keynote from Deborah Frances-White, comedian and Sunday Times bestselling author, best known for her hit podcast *The Guilty Feminist*.

All six of the shortlist, plus co-Chairs Catherine Clarke and Denise Johnstone-Burt, and previous winner (and 2019 judge) Alice Curry are available for interview and comment.

Contact: Nina Douglas at nina@ninadouglaspr.com or on 07889 367764

NOTES TO EDITORS

KEY DATES:

Wednesday 1st May 2019:	Shortlist announced
Tuesday 28th May 2019:	Winner announcement and Prize Ceremony at Stationers' Hall, London

ABOUT THE AWARD AND PARTNERS:

- The shortlist for the 2019 Kim Scott Walwyn Prize is:
 - **Aimée Felone** – co-founder, Knights Of
 - **Aki Schilz** – Director, The Literary Consultancy
 - **Crystal Mahey-Morgan** – co-founder, OWN IT!
 - **Laura Jones** and **Heather McDaid** – co-founders, 404 INK
 - **Ola Gotkowska** – Contracts Manager, Nosy Crow

Founded in 2003, the Kim Scott Walwyn Prize honours the life and career of Kim Scott Walwyn - who was Publishing Director at Oxford University Press and who died in 2002 - and celebrates exceptional women in publishing. It has now been awarded eleven times, with the 2017 Prize going to Alice Curry, founder and publisher at Lantana Publishing. It was originally awarded to women who were at the peak of their career but in 2011 changed its focus to recognise the professional achievements and promise of future leaders of the industry and is now open to any woman who has worked in publishing in the UK for up to seven years.

The Kim Scott Walwyn Prize is run in partnership with the Society of Young Publishers. The winner of the Prize receives £1000, sponsored by the SYP.

Full terms and conditions are available at <https://kimscottwalwyn.org/terms-conditions-for-submission-2019/>.

For further information on the Prize, please visit <https://kimscottwalwyn.org>. Follow [@KSWPrize](#) and [#KSWPrize](#) on Twitter.

Previous winners:

2018 (prize did not run)
2017 **Alice Curry**
2016 (prize did not run)
2015 Rebecca Lewis-Oakes
2014 Anne Perry
2013 Miriam Robinson
2012 Rukhsana Yasmin
2011 Kay Peddle
2010 (prize did not run)
2009 Kathy Rooney
2008 Clare Alexander
2007 Annette Thomas
2006 (prize did not run)
2005 Penelope Hoare
2004 Lynette Owen



- Established in 1949, the **Society of Young Publishers** (SYP) is open to anyone in publishing or a related trade – or who is hoping to be soon. The SYP was originally founded for under-35s, but it's now open to anyone and caters especially for those with fewer than ten years' publishing experience. Run by a team of dedicated volunteers, our aim is to help **assist, inform** and **encourage** anyone trying to break into the industry or progress within it. For more information, please visit <https://thesyp.org.uk/> or follow [@SYP UK](#) on Twitter.

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