

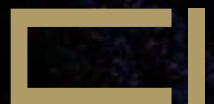


# MÁIRE MHAC AN tSAOI POETRY IN IRISH AWARD



comhairle chontae na mí  
meath county council

Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017-2022





## MÁIRE MHAC AN tSAOI POETRY IN IRISH AWARD

In honour of **MÁIRE MHAC AN tSAOI, 1922-2021**,  
Meath County Council Cultural Services are pleased to announce  
the establishment of the **Máire Mhac an tSaoi Poetry in Irish Award**

### DETAILS:

The award consists of a one-day Master Class with Louis de Paor for five participants.

There is no application form.

The award is open to practitioners of Irish language poetry on the island of Ireland. Applicants must be over 18 years of age.

Applicants should be able to show commitment and achievement in their chosen field.

Closing date: Friday 27th May, 2022  
at 5.00 p.m.

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### APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please submit the following:

- Detailed biography or CV including current address, telephone number, contact details etc.
- A reasonable sample of work.
- A signed letter of application.
- A work proposal – applicants should state clearly what they wish to accomplish from this award. This project outline is a deciding factor and should demonstrate that the writer is working towards a particular body of work which would be helped by the advice, knowledge and expertise of Louis de Paor.
- The work sample must be in Irish while the application may be in Irish or English.



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**MÁIRE MHAC AN tSAOI**  
POETRY IN IRISH AWARD



## TERMS & CONDITIONS

The Master Class will take place in County Meath in June 2022, the exact date and location will be notified well in advance.

Meath County Council reserves the right not to make any award if it believes the interests of the Council and the applicants would be best served by this course of action.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

EMAIL APPLICATIONS ONLY will be accepted. Hard copy or faxed entries are inadmissible. Support material may be submitted in Word as a scanned document or PDF. Please do not provide web links to samples of work etc as they will be blocked and the entry will not be received.

Successful applicants will be responsible for their own travel and attendance but will receive a stipend of €150 towards their costs.

The successful applicants must agree to co-operate with Meath County Council Cultural Services in all matters relating to publicity regarding the award.

The Meath County Council Máire Mhac an tSaoi Award must be given full accreditation on proposal outcomes.

**Closing date for receipt of entries:  
Friday 27th May, 2022 at 5.00 p.m.**

Applications should be forwarded to  
**gaelige@meathcoco.ie**

## MÁIRE MHAC AN tSAOI, 1922-2021

Máire Mhac an tSaoi was one of Ireland's foremost Irish language poets. Her poetry includes *Codladh an Ghaiscígh*, 1973, *An Galar Dubhach*, 1980 (both Sairséal agus Dill), *An cion go dtí seo* (Collected Poems, published in 1987) and *Shoah agus Danta eile*, 1999 (both Sairséal Ó Marcaigh). Renowned for her ability to merge traditional and classical forms with modern themes, she spoke to and from the intimate experience of women at a time when women's voices were largely inaudible.

Her first poetry collection, *Margadh na Saoire* (1956), brought early critical attention. In 1968 Frank O'Brien's *Filíocht Ghaeilge na Linne Seo* recognised *Mhac an tSaoi* as a major Irish language poet. She went on to published translations of Irish language poems in *A Heart Full of Thought* (Dolmen, 1959), and translations to English of poems by Monsignor de Brún in *Miserere* (Gill & Macmillan, 1971).

Máire served in the Diplomatic Corps, was called to the Bar and, in addition to being a poet, was a critic, translator, academic and scholar. She lived with her daughter in Navan, Co. Meath for a number of years where she enjoyed the services of Navan library.

Mhac an tSaoi's later years saw a further blossoming of her literary and scholarly work. Publications included another book of translations, *Trasládáil*, (Lagan Press, 1997), a novella about Piaras Feirtéar, *A Bhean Óg Ón* (Cló Iarchonnacht 2001) and the scholarly work *Cérbh í Meg Russell?* (Leabhar Breac, 2008), with Máire Mac Conghail and Liz Ó Droma. In 2011 *An Paróiste Míorúilteach/The Miraculous Parish*, a bilingual selection of her poems, edited by Louis de Paor, was published by The O'Brien Press and Cló Iarchonnacht. In that same year her novella *Scéal Ghearáid Iarla* won the Gradam Uí Shúilleabháin for the Irish language book of the year.

In Máire's view, the Irish language was vital to Ireland as "the prime catalyst in the creation of a truly European culture". She spoke of the good fortune that brought her to the Gaeltacht, without this experience "life would have been inconceivably poorer".