

George Szirtes Kathryn Daszkiewicz

'Serious as Brodsky, culturally wide-ranging as Peter Porter... Szirtes is one of the best poets we have' – Independent on Sunday

'Happy is the man who can draw out from his work a single thread of such brilliance and plenitude.'
– PBS Recommendation

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Tuesday
10th March
2009

Michaelhouse
Trinity Street
8pm

www.cb1poetry.org.uk

George Szirtes has been awarded countless poetry prizes and fellowships, from the Faber Memorial Prize for his first collection in 1979 to the T S Eliot Prize in 2005. Translator, librettist, lecturer at UEA and essayist on a wide range of topics, he also writes for radio and television, and publishes a very closely-followed weblog. **Kathryn Daszkiewicz's** poetry has been widely published in magazines such as Acumen and The Rialto, and included in Shoestring's 2001 'New Writing'. Her first full-length collection, 'In the Dangerous Cloakroom', was published in 2006. **Doors open 7:30pm, £5/£3 concessions.**



George Szirtes

George Szirtes was born in Budapest in 1948 and came to England as a refugee in 1956. He was brought up in London and studied Fine Art in London and Leeds. His first book, *The Slant Door*, was published in 1979 and won the Faber Memorial prize. Since then he has been awarded the European Poetry Translation Prize and T S Eliot prize, and his work has been the Poetry Society choice or recommendation innumerable times and Book of the Year in various journals and national newspapers. He has written librettos for operas, works for radio and television and essays and articles not only on poetry and translation but also on other topics such as contemporary art, photography, printmaking, urban history and topography. In 2002 he set up the MA in Writing the Visual at Norwich School of Art and he now lectures on the MA in creative writing at UEA. He also writes a blog that is closely followed by many interested in literature, poetry, current affairs, football, old films and his travels all over the world as a poet, editor, translator and critic.

'Poetry's only obligation is to the truth. Whether this truth is widely popular or not is irrelevant. It should be the best truth possible and that is the only quality which will give it any hope of survival.' – George Szirtes

'combining a dizzyingly metamorphic imagination with formal strictness... a genuine strangeness his second language can count itself lucky to accommodate.' – The Sunday Times

'He has taken England into Europe... his triumph is in his ability to wring lyrical language from grim subjects without averting his eyes.' – The Observer

'a major contribution to post-war literature... Using a painter-like collage of images to retrieve lost times, lives, cities and betrayed hopes, Szirtes weaves his personal and historical themes into this work of profound psychological complexity' – Poetry Review



Kathryn Daszkiewicz

Kathryn Daszkiewicz studied English at Leeds University and creative writing MPhil at Glamorgan. She has been widely published in magazines including *The Rialto*, *Acumen* and *Smiths Knoll*, and was awarded a writer's bursary by East Midlands Arts in 2001 and selected for their 24-8 project. Her work appeared in the 2001 Shoestring Press anthology of *New Writing*, and 'In the Dangerous Cloakroom', her first full-length collection, was published by Shoestring Press in October 2006.

TIGER IN WAITING

Then, for all I knew, feng shui
might have gone well with noodles.
Our room faced north. I couldn't
see the door. At night, thick curtains
kept a flickering road at bay. Shut out
The Plough. I was water to your fire.
By day a telegraph pole, close to the house,
shot poison chi across the big sash window.

I moved south – across the landing. Now
on windy nights as I watch the birch tree
toss its glittering fleece, the energy's
in free flow. In the distant hills perhaps
a dragon sleeps, while open blinds invite
auspicious stars to spell a future where
alone's not lonely. A thrush calls from the ash.
It is the single birds who sing the most.

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