

# Stirling Centre of Poetry

PROGRAMME FOR AUTUMN

2009



• **THURSDAY 8 October 7.30 in Pathfoot A7**

**GERRY CAMBRIDGE** is a poet, photographer and naturalist, and the founder editor of the literary magazine *The Dark Horse*. He has been the MacDiarmid Fellow at Brownsbank and is currently the Royal Literary Fund Writing Fellow at the University of Edinburgh where he is based part-time in the Schools of Biological Sciences and of Physics. He has worked on community projects in both literary and visual arts and was the Scottish Poetry Library's first online 'virtual' poet in 2006. His collections of poetry include *Nothing But Heather* (1999); *Madame Fi Fi's Farewell and Other Poems* (2003); *The Dynamite Project* (2005) a 270 line poem based on Alfred Nobel and his explosives factory at Ardeer in Ayrshire; and most recently *Aves* (2007) which he describes as 'prose poetry with a documentary element' about birds and 'a teenage obsession with ornithology'. A welcome return to Stirling, after the unavoidable cancellation of his reading last semester.

• **THURSDAY 5 November 7.30 in Pathfoot A7**

**KONA MACPHEE** was brought up in Australia where she says she 'flirted with a range of occupations including composer, violinist, waitress and motorcycle mechanic' before going to Cambridge to continue her studies in robotics and computer science. She received an Eric Gregory award for her poetry in 1998; Bloodaxe published her first collection, *Tails*, in 2004 with poems that ranged 'from cosmology to infidelity, gentle truth to the fiercest of fairytales'. She has done Poetry Society 'poetry surgery' sessions at the Scottish Poetry Library. She lives in Perthshire, works as a software designer and is a passionate hill walker. Her next collection *Perfect Blue* will appear from Bloodaxe in February next year.

• **THURSDAY 3 December 7.30 in Pathfoot A7**

**POLLY CLARK** has read her work widely abroad. Her poetry received an Eric Gregory award in 1997, her first collection, *Kiss*, was a Poetry Book Society Recommendation in 2000, and *Take Me With You* (2005) from Bloodaxe was a Poetry Book Society Choice and was also shortlisted for the T. S. Eliot Prize. Her most recent collection is *Farewell My Lovely* from Bloodaxe in 2009, with poems that have been described as 'moving and often darkly comic, [exploring] the ways in which we try to hang on to what we were, and the ways in which we accept that everything we were certain of has gone forever.' Born in Toronto, Polly Clark was brought up in northern England and the Scottish Borders. She now lives in the West Coast of Scotland, she reviews for the *Guardian*, has worked as a tutor for the Arvon Foundation and most recently as the Royal Literary Fund Fellow at Edinburgh University.

ALL WELCOME

ENTRANCE FREE