

Entries for the 2017 Gratiaen Prize for Creative Writing in English

Presented by Michael Ondaatje

The Gratiaen Prize:

1. The Prize of Sri Lankan Rupees 200,000 will be awarded for the best work of creative writing in English by a Sri Lankan citizen resident in Sri Lanka, **aged 16 years or over**, published for the first time in 2017 or unpublished and ready for publication at the time of entry.
2. Creative writing eligible for the prize may include novels, collections of short stories, poetry, play scripts and other types of creative writing such as autobiography, biography and memoirs.
3. Entries for the prize may be submitted by writers or publishers of the work.
4. The entries will be judged by an independent panel of judges appointed by the Trustees.

Entries:

Four (04) copies of each book or manuscript entered should be delivered to the Chairperson, the Gratiaen Trust, c/o Marga Institute, 941/1, Jayanthi Mawatha, Kotte Road, Etul Kotte, (Monday – Friday, 8.30 am – 4.30 pm), between 1 - 31 December, 2017. Tel: 0777-335301 / minoli.malawana@gmail.com for enquiries during office hours.

Please Note:

Entry forms/rules are available at MDe Associates, No.271, Ground Floor, Deans Road, Maradana, Colombo 10. To obtain an entry form and the rules by mail, please forward a stamped self-addressed envelope to the Chairperson, The Gratiaen Trust, c/o MDe Associates, No.271, Ground Floor, Deans Road, Maradana, Colombo 10. Entry forms/rules can also be accessed through our website www.gratiaen.com.

Sponsors of the Event

SARASAVI BOOKSHOP (PVT) LIMITED

Rules

Eligibility for The Gratiaen Prize:

1. The prize will be awarded for the best work of creative writing in English by a Sri Lankan resident in Sri Lanka, **aged 16 years or over**, published for the first time in 2017 or unpublished and ready for publication at the time of entry.
2. Entries eligible for the prize may include novels, collections of short stories, poetry, play scripts and other types of creative writing such as autobiography, biography and memoirs.
3. Entries for the prize may be submitted either by the writer or by the publishers of the work. The maximum number of entries per writer shall be two (02).

General

1. Entries will be judged by an independent panel of judges appointed by the Trustees.
2. The judges shall not be obliged to name a winner if they are of the opinion that none of the entries submitted merits the prize.
3. The writers should be Sri Lankan citizens who are permanently resident in Sri Lanka aged 16 years or over. Writers who are citizens of Sri Lanka but have not been continuously resident in Sri Lanka during the year 2017 should give full particulars regarding their residence abroad to enable the Trustees to determine their eligibility for the prize. Writers enjoying dual citizenship should establish that their principal country of residence is Sri Lanka. The final decision regarding eligibility under the criterion of citizenship rests with the Board of Trustees.
4. Entries may include works published for the first time in 2017 and unpublished works ready for publication. For this purpose "publication" refers to works printed and available for sale to the public. The date of first publication should be the date given in the book. In the case of play scripts, if there was a production prior to submission, the date of first production will be taken as date of publication.
5. Entries submitted for the prize should be original works, should be of reasonable length and should not have been submitted earlier for this prize.
6. If the entry is an unpublished work, but if part of it has been published previously, such published work should not exceed more than one quarter of the total contents of the entry. This condition will not apply to poems or short stories published in periodicals or newspapers.
7. The author of the prize winning manuscript will not be permitted to make substantial changes to the text when publishing the work without the written consent of the Gratiaen Trust. The work shall be published within six (6) months of the award.
8. An author may submit entries under a pseudonym. In this event, the entry form should include the name of the author as given in his/her National Identity Card. The Trust will disclose the actual name of the author to the judges and the general public at the Gratiaen main event once the judging process has ended and only if she/he is shortlisted for the award. Where a published work is submitted it should be submitted under the same name as appears on the publication.
9. Should an entry be shortlisted and such entry is in manuscript form the author will be required to submit a softcopy of the entry in MS Word format on a CD.

Submission of Entries:

1. Four copies of each book or manuscript entered should be sent to the Chairperson, The Gratiaen Trust, c/o Marga Institute, 941/1, Jayanthi Mawatha, Kotte Road, Ethul Kotte.
2. Entries should be submitted with completed entry forms which are available at MDe Associates, No.271, Ground Floor, Deans Road, Maradana, Colombo 10. Authors/publishers who wish to have the forms mailed to them should forward a stamped self addressed envelope to the Chairperson, the Gratiaen Trust, c/o MDe Associates, No.271, Ground Floor, Deans Road, Maradana, Colombo 10.
3. All manuscripts should be ready for publication, neatly typed on A4 paper, double spaced and on one side only, with a one inch margin all around, pages numbered, with a table of contents and neatly bound (spiral or other). All published books should be submitted in whole including the publisher/printer information and details of authorship. **Books and manuscripts accepted for consideration will not be returned.**
4. Collections of short stories should contain a minimum of ten (10) substantial short stories and collections of poems should contain a minimum of twenty five (25) substantial poems.
5. Previous winners of either prize will not be eligible to compete for the next (03) three years.

Conditions pertaining to unpublished work:

If the prize is awarded to an unpublished work, the publication may be undertaken by the Trust in consultation with the author and all or part of the prize money will be used for this purpose. When submitting the entry, the author should give his consent to such publication in the Entry Form.