

NEWS RELEASE: 13th March 2017



2017 New Angle Prize Shortlist

The judges' shortlist is announced for the 2017 New Angle Prize, for literature associated with or influenced by the region of East Anglia. The prize has a single category and the six works come from a number of different genres. They are:

Julia Blackburn, **Threads, The Delicate Life of John Craske** (Jonathan Cape, April 2015)

Jill Dawson, **The Crime Writer** (Hodder & Stoughton, June 2016)

Fiona Melrose, **Midwinter** (Little, Brown, November 2016)

Julie Myerson, **The Stopped Heart** (Jonathan Cape, February 2016)

Sarah Perry, **The Essex Serpent** (Profile Books, May 2016)

Rosy Thornton, **Sandlands** (Sandstone Press, July 2016).

The £2,500 competition is organised by the Ipswich Institute and sponsored by Gotelee Solicitors and Scrutton Bland Financial Services. Authors of the short-listed books will be asked to attend a book-reading event at the Ipswich Institute on Wednesday 28th June. Prize-winners will be announced at a special awards dinner on Wednesday 6th September. Full details can be found on the New Angle prize website www.ipswichinstitute.org.uk/NAP.html and progress can be followed on Twitter @PrizeNewAngle

New Angle Prize Judges for 2017:

Midge Gillies Cambridgeshire-based biographer and director of creative-writing at Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education

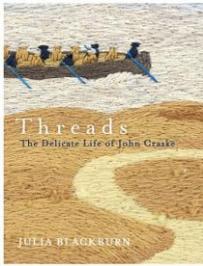
Steve Russell Booklover, journalist and leader-writer for the East Anglian Daily Times

Kate Worsley Harwich-based author of prize-winning first novel *She Rises* (Bloomsbury, 2014)

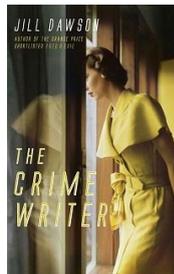
Contact Hugh Pierce for more information on 01473 253992 or email library@ipswichinstitute.org.uk



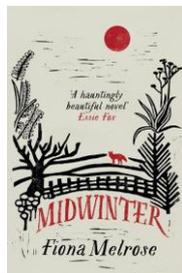
2017 New Angle Prize Judges' Short-list.



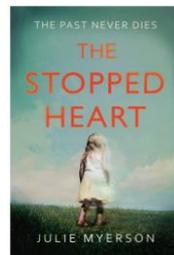
Julia Blackburn, **Threads, The Delicate Life of John Craske** (Jonathan Cape, April 2015) *“This is a book beautifully written, beautifully illustrated and beautifully produced about the recently rediscovered genius of a Norfolk fisherman. Falling seriously ill at the time of the First World War Craske began painting the sea, boats and coastline, and when he could no longer stand, lay in bed and embroidered.”*



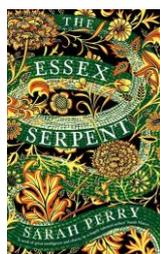
Jill Dawson, **The Crime Writer** (Hodder & Stoughton, June 2016) *“Eccentric and troubled American writer Patricia Highsmith spent part of the 1960s in rural Suffolk – where she would have stood out just a bit. In Jill Dawson’s destabilising book, you’re never quite sure what’s real, imagined, or simply the result of madness. One of those stories you can’t stop thinking about for weeks afterwards.”*



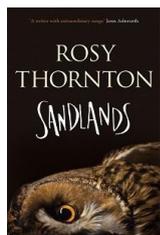
Fiona Melrose, **Midwinter** (Little, Brown, November 2016) *“Very assured debut novel that explores the emotions of men of the land, which we don’t often see. The lands can be bountiful and soothing, or harsh and imprisoning. And they can extract a price. As life becomes testing and hopeless, family bonds threaten to snap. Unless there’s a strong vein of love that can be mined, it’s all over”.*



Julie Myerson, **The Stopped Heart** (Jonathan Cape, February 2016) *“It’s always baffling that Julie Myerson appears so balanced and normal and yet can produce, as if from nowhere, dark and scary material. This ghostly examination of deep loss is a fine example, and not one to read on your own at night, when the floorboards and beams are wont to creak.”*



Sarah Perry, **The Essex Serpent** (Profile Books, May 2016) *“Such an eccentric bunch of characters – and you miss them so much when the last page is read. Feel both the beauty and oppressive nature of the muddy Essex shores and understand how collective hysteria can gain a foothold. A novel that has the power to surprise, genuinely.”*



Rosy Thornton, **Sandlands** (Sandstone Press, July 2016) *“Rosy Thornton really has her finger on the pulse of this spread-out village that visitors rarely seem to enter twice by the same route. The past and present are separated only by a thin screen – and it’s unnerving. Her short stories capture that perfectly”.*

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