

### **Feliu Formosa wins the Fundació Jesús Serra Special Poetry Prize. The foundation also publishes the names of the winners of the 13th edition of the Poetry Competition, in its different categories.**

**The Poetry Competition of the Fundació Jesús Serra, of Grupo Catalana Occidente, ended the call for entries with a wide participation: More than a thousand pieces were submitted from 27 countries. This is the only international poetry competition which takes into account all age groups in its different categories: from 10 to 13 years old, from 14 to 17 and from 18 years old.**

The poet Feliu Formosa is the first winner of one the new additions to this year's competition. A new category, the Fundación Jesús Serra Special Poetry Award, which honours the career of a renowned author or writer with a prize of €5,000.

The increase in participation and the diversity of the entries submitted to the competition is due to the work that is being carried out by the Fundació Jesús Serra year after year, based on different initiatives, with the aim of promoting poetic creation. One of these initiatives is the "Poetízate. Poesía en la escuela" (Poetry in school) project, the result of an agreement signed with the ACEC (Catalonia Writers' Association) and with the collaboration of more than 30 schools, in order to bring this literary genre closer to young people as a tool for expression.

The jury of the Fundació Jesús Serra, from Grupo Catalana Occidente, formed by writer Carlos Zanón, writer Elena Medel, writer and journalist David Castillo, Professor Ricardo Fernández Aguilà, writer and literary critic Alejandro Krawietz, have decided to award the following prizes:

**In the Fundació Jesús Serra Special Poetry Prize category, the jury wanted to recognise the prestigious poet **Feliu Formosa**, as well as a renowned playwright and translator.**

**In category A (aged 18 years and above), in Spanish, and with a prize of €2,500, the prize has been awarded to the piece:**

***A veces veo brillar los ojos de mi madre (Sometimes I see my mother's eyes shine), by Miguel Sánchez Robles. Murcia***

**In category B (aged between 14 and 17 years), in Spanish, and with a prize of €1,500:**

***Sobre lo efímero (On the ephemeral), by Alejandra Bach Serra. Barcelona***

**In category C (aged between 10 and 13 years), in Spanish, and with a prize of €800:**

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***Sobre la charca se mece...* (On the pond it sways), by Nicole Graoning Lladosa. Trinidad (Cuba)**

**In category A (aged 18 years and above), in Catalan, and with a prize of €2,500**

***Sorra i lluna* (Sand and moon), by Arleth Abigail Aguilar. Girona**

**In category B (aged between 14 and 17 years), in Catalan, and with a prize of €1,500:**

***No dubtis* (Do not hesitate), by Maria Ribas Fernández. Barcelona**

**In category C (aged between 10 and 13 years), in Catalan, and with a prize of €800:**

***Una simple carta d'amor* (A simple love letter), by Laia Casals. Barcelona**

The six winners of the 13th edition, plus Feliu Formosa in recognition of his career, join a total of 85 people who have been awarded by the Fundació Jesús Serra since the competition began in 2007. Among the winners was Mario García Obrero, winner in the children's category in 2015, 2017 and the young people category in 2019, who was the Félix Grande National Youth Poetry Prize at just 17 years old.

The awards ceremony, initially scheduled for July, will be held in September due to the security measures to be carried out due to COVID-19.

### **Feliu Formosa, winner of the Fundació Jesús Serra Special Poetry Prize.**

Feliu Formosa (Sabadell, 1934) is a poet, playwright and translator. A graduate of Romantic Philology from the University of Barcelona, he extended his studies in the area of German studies, where he has carried out most of his work. He has translated into both Catalan and Spanish. Notably, his translation of the plays by Bertolt Brecht, Ernst Toller, Tankred Dorst, Anton Chejov, Henrik Ibsen and Thomas Bernhard, among others; he has also translated poems by Gerog Trakl, Goethe and François Villon. With regard to fiction, he has been a translator of Thomas Mann, Hermann Hesse, Robert Musil, Hienrich Böll, Franz Kafka, Joseph Roth and Heinrich von Kleist, as well as a translator of essays by Doris Lessing and Peter Weiss. He began his poetic career in 1973 with the publication of two poems: *Albes breus* (Proa), and *Llibre de les meditacions* (Edicions 62). He is the author of around twenty poetry books. His latest work, *Papallona de l'ombra* (Pagès Editors), was published in 2018.

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Formosa is one of the most award-winning writers in Catalan literature. He has been recognised with the Carles Riba Poetry Prize for *Llibre dels viatges* (1977); Serra d'Or de Memòries Critics Award for *El presente vulnerable* (1980); Ciutat de Palma-Joan Alcover prize for poetry in Catalan with Joan Casa i Fuster for *Amb efecte* (1986); Lletra d'Or Prize for *Semblança* (1987). In recognition of his career and dedication to the cultural scene, he has received the Creu de Sant Jordi (1988); the National Translation Award from the Ministry of Culture (1994); Premi Butaca, which honours a lifetime dedicated to theatre (2005); Premi d'Honor de les Lletres Catalanes (2005); National Theatre Award (2007); Jaume Fuster Prize for Writers in the Catalan Language (2006), Friederich-Gundolf-Preis Prize for the dissemination of German culture (2011), and the Ciutat de Sabadell Medal for Cultural Merit (2012).

### **Miguel Sánchez Robles, winner of category A (from 18 years old), in Spanish 2020**

Miguel Sánchez Robles, (Caravaca de la Cruz, Murcia). A professor of Geography and History and a writer. He has received, among others, the poetry awards Vicente Núñez, Miguel Hernández, José Zorrilla, Leonor, Esquío, Barcarola, Vicente Aleixandre, University of Murcia, Gabriel Celaya and Blas de Otero. In short, he has received recognition from the most important awards in Spain. For novels, he has been awarded the Torrente Ballester awards for the forthcoming book *El síndrome Hybris*; the Javier Tomeo from the Rey Juan Carlos University for the novel *Cazadores de cordero*; the Fray Luis de León for *La tristeza del barro*; the City of Cordoba prize for *Donde empieza la nada*, and *Nunca la vida es nuestra* (Castilla y León Regional Government Prize for Literary Creation). He is also the author of several essays.

### **Arleth Aguilar, winner of category A (from 18 years old), in Catalan 2020**

Arleth Aguilar was born in Honduras but has lived in Girona since the age of seven. She has enjoyed writing since a very young age, but it was in her teenage years that she turned to poetry. She submitted pieces to several literary competitions in her school, winning particularly in the poetry category. She feels more comfortable writing poems in Catalan because she is interested in reclaiming the Catalan language and keeping it alive. She also writes stories, although in Spanish. She is also passionate about novels, a genre that she does not use as a means of expression, only to read, as she says that "at my young age I do not have the courage to venture into it, perhaps later. Right now, my intention is to do my bit for Catalan poetry."

Writing is a part of her daily routine. "Friends and loves have gone, new siblings have arrived... but the habit of writing is always present, because it is the driving force towards the new stages in my life," adds Arleth Aguilar.

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### The jury of the 2020 Fundació Jesús Serra Poetry Competition

**Carlos Zanón** is the author of several poetry books, of the novels *Nadie ama a un hombre bueno, Tarde, mal y nunca*, Brigada 21 prize for the Best First Novel of the Year, and finalist for the Silverio Cañada Memorial awards, *Giallo e dell Noir* (Italy) and *Violeta Negra* (France); *No llames a casa*, awarded Valencia Negra prize for the Best Black Novel of the Year, and *Yo fui Johnny Thunders*, awarded the Salamanca Negra prize, Novelpol and Dashiell Hammett, as well as the story book *Marley estaba muerto*. With *Taxi* he was established as one of the most important authors in Spanish literature. In 2019, he published *Problemas de Identidad*, a continuation of the *Carvalho* series by Manuel Vázquez Montalbán. His narrative work has been translated in the United States, Germany, France, Holland and Italy. He collaborates as a columnist and literary and musical critic in newspapers, magazines and cultural supplements.

**Elena Medel** is a writer from Cordoba particularly dedicated to the field of poetry. She has published the collections of poems *Mi primer bikini* (2002), which received the 2001 Andalusian Youth prize, awarded by the Andalusian Youth Institute; *Tara* (2006) and *Chatterton* (2014), which won the Loewe prize in their Young Creation category. She is also the author of the books *Vacaciones* (2004) and *Un soplo en el corazón* (2007).

Her poems have been translated into German, Arabic, Armenian, Slovenian, Basque, French, English, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Swedish and Swahili. Her work appears in numerous recent poetry books. As a storyteller, her stories have also been published in various anthologies. In 2016, she received the Princess of Girona Foundation Arts and Letters Award.

**David Castillo** is a Catalan poet, founder in 1989 of the cultural supplement of the newspaper *El Punt-Avui*, after collaborating in major national newspapers and magazines during the eighties. He was director of the magazine *Lletra de canvi* for eight years and served as a professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona for five years. He has organised different poetry cycles and was founder and director of the Barcelona Poetry Week in 1997. In September 2017, he took over as chairman of the ACEC (Catalan Writers' Association). He has the highest distinctions in Catalan literature, from the Sant Jordi prize for novels, the Carles Riba for poetry, the Crexells for the best novel of the year and different Atlántida awards as a literary writer. Some of his most noteworthy works include *Game over*, *El cielo de infierno*, *Espalda desnuda*, *Sin mirar atrás*, *Downtown*, *Poesía*, *Contracultura*, *Barcelona* and *El túnel del tiempo*.

**Josefa Contijoch** is a Catalan writer, the daughter of a family of printers and booksellers. She studied Philology at the University of Barcelona. Among her poetry works are *Quadern de vacances*, a reading of *El segon sexe* (1983; Miquel Martí i Pol Poetry Prize), *Ales intactes* (1996; Salvador Espriu Poetry Prize 1994), *Les lentes il·lusions* (2001; Màrius Torres Prize 2000) and *Congesta* (2007). As for her narrative work, she is the author of *Potala* (1986), *La dona líquida* (1990), *Els dies infinits* (2001), and *Sense alè* (2012; Ciutat de Barcelona Award 2012, Serra d'Or Critics Award 2013 and Joan Crexells Award 2013). She has also written children's literature and translated works from French. In 2016, she was awarded the Creu de Sant Jordi from the Government of Catalonia in recognition of all her work.

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**Ricardo Fernández Aguilà** has been a professor and writer born in Barcelona. A graduate of Hispanic Philology, he is the author of *Un Fernandès entre banderes* (2014), *Un profesor se despidió* (2017) and online stories *Un entender no entendiendo* (2012-2013).

He has also done introductory studies and translations in the books *El diálogo como el inconsciente: Antonio Machado* by Antoni Pascual Piqué (2009) and *32 poemas* by Màrius Torres. His project *El despertar de la conciencia a través de la poesía* (*The awakening of the consciousness through poetry*) has travelled to cities such as Barcelona and Madrid in search of the inspiration of poetry for the different stages of life. For more than forty years, he has been a secondary school and baccalaureate teacher, as well as a translator, especially of children's literature.

**Alejandro Krawietz Rodríguez** holds a degree in Hispanic Philology from the University of La Laguna (Tenerife). He was a professor of literature (UBO, France) and has been a literary and arts critic. He is the author of the poetry books *La mirada y las támaras*, *Memoria de la luz*, *En la orilla del aire* and *Para un dios diurno*. He has published anthologies *La otra joven poesía española*, *La realidad entera* by Ángel Crespo and the Syntaxis exhibition catalogue: A creative adventure which he was a curator for in the Tenerife Arts Space. He led the first era of the *Piedra y Cielo* magazine and was coordinator of its second digital era. He is currently director of the International Documentary Film Festival MiradasDoc.

You can follow all the latest news about the Competition in the Fundació Jesús Serra's social network profiles with the hashtag #ConcursoPoesíaFJS or on the website <https://poesiafjs.com>

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