

# SOUTHBANK CENTRE

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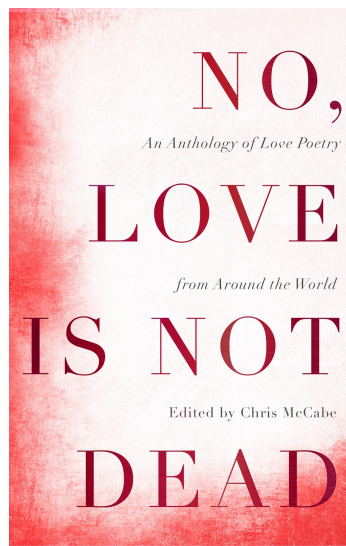
## Press Release

**Date:** Thursday 4 February 2021, 10:00am

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## National Poetry Library announces '*No, Love Is Not Dead: An Anthology of Love Poetry from Around the World*' ahead of Valentine's Day

Edited by National Poetry Librarian Chris McCabe, the anthology features over **50** classic and contemporary love poems from writers including **Apollinaire; Nicole Brossard; Augusto de Campos; Catullus; Chaucer; Dante; Robert Desnos; Ali Cobby Eckermann; Goethe; Kim Hyesoon; Louise Labé; Federico Garcia Lorca; Vladimir Mayakovsky; Miklós Radnóti; Kutti Ravathi; Sappho; Warsan Shire; Laura Tohe** and **Marina Tsvetaeva**.



The Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library, with publisher John Murray Press (through its Chambers imprint), today announces the publication of ***No, Love is Not Dead: An Anthology of Love Poetry From Around The World***, ahead of Valentine's Day on Sunday 14 February.

Edited by **Chris McCabe** (National Poetry Librarian) this new anthology of poems about love will feature an impressive range of classic and contemporary writers, from Dante, Sappho and Apollinaire through to Kim Hyesoon and Warsan Shire. With over 50 poems written in their original languages - modern, ancient, endangered and constructed - and accompanied by English translations and commentaries, *No, Love Is Not Dead* thoughtfully considers and challenges notions of what love means and how it is portrayed around the world. It is an ultimate celebration of the richness of love, life, language and poetry and is a pertinent reminder of what love is and what it can be. The book includes a foreword by Laura Tohe, the current Navajo Nation Poet Laureate and Professor Emeritus

with Distinction at Arizona State University, who has won awards including the 2020 Academy of American Poetry Fellowship, the 2019 American Indian Festival of Writers Award, and the Arizona Book Association's Glyph Award for Best Poetry. The book title 'Non l'amour n'est pas mort' is by the Surrealist poet, Robert Desnos.

The book has its nucleus in the Endangered Poetry Project that was launched at the Southbank Centre in 2017 and developed into *Poems from the Edge of Extinction: An Anthology of Poetry in Endangered Languages* (Chambers, 2019). *No, Love is Not Dead* includes many languages classified as vulnerable or endangered by UNESCO, such as Faroese, Irish Gaelic, Māori, Navajo, Scots, Scottish Gaelic, Welsh, Yankunytjatjara and Yiddish. With over half of the world's 7,000 languages under threat, and many of those communities facing some of the most extreme cases of COVID-19, poetry plays a vital part in their revitalisation.

**Chris McCabe said;** *"The book celebrates the idea of love being a universal emotion, but one which has unique expressions in many different languages and is often culturally determined by time and place. I spent the lockdown of 2020 pouring through the vast catalogue of the National Poetry Library, re-engaging with some of my favourite love poems, and discovering many new ones which I couldn't believe I had lived without. At a time of so many borders closing due to the pandemic, the book makes a powerful statement on the pervasive and enduring nature of love poetry across the world. It has again been a great pleasure to work with Emma Green at Chambers on this new venture, which I hope will bring a splash of hope and positivity to readers at the beginning of 2021."*

On Thursday 11 February Chris McCabe and Laura Tohe (Navajo Nation Poet Laureate) will host *Love Poems Live*, a special Instagram event featuring live readings of poems and a short Q&A with Laura to celebrate the book's launch.

Founded in 1953 and opened by T.S. Eliot and Herbert Read, the National Poetry Library is the largest public collection of modern poetry in the world and is housed at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in London. The National Poetry Library has been running its poetry enquiry service through this lockdown, including its unique 'Lost Quotes' service which joins people up with poems they remember from the past. The loans service has provided the latest poetry collections in digital form for people all over the UK to borrow for free, and the library's competition listings have helped the national poetry ecosystem to thrive for budding poets and organisers.

The publication of the anthology comes as the Southbank Centre's *Inside Out* programme returns; with talks by Fearn Cotton (4 Feb), Ethan Hawke (8 Feb), Raven Leilani (25 Feb), Skin (4 Mar), Hanif Abdurraqib (25 Mar) and performances by resident spoken word collective Out-Spoken (28 Mar). The programme also features gigs by Black Country, New Road (6 Mar) and London Contemporary Orchestra (19 Mar).

# ENDS #

[nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk](http://nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk)  
[southbankcentre.co.uk](http://southbankcentre.co.uk)

***No, Love Is Not Dead: An Anthology of Love Poetry from Around the World***

Edited by Chris McCabe  
Publish on 4 February 2021 in hardback and e-book  
£16.99  
ISBN-13: 9781529338546  
Available to buy in bookstores also at [southbankcentre.co.uk/shop](https://southbankcentre.co.uk/shop)

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**Join the conversation:**

@natpoetrylib  
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@chamberswords

**Love Poems Live**

Instagram, @nationalpoetrylibrary  
Thursday 11 February, 7pm

Join Chris McCabe (National Poetry Librarian) and Laura Tohe (Navajo Nation Poet Laureate), for the launch of a brand new anthology of love poems written in different languages from around the world. Chris will introduce *No, Love is Not Dead* (Chambers), followed by live readings of poems and a short Q&A with Laura. Start the Valentines' weekend vibes early with these classic, rare and contemporary love poems.

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

**About the Southbank Centre**

The Southbank Centre is the UK's largest arts centre and one of the UK's top five visitor attractions, occupying a prominent riverside location that sits in the midst of London's most vibrant cultural quarter on the South Bank of the Thames. We exist to present great cultural experiences that bring people together and we achieve this by providing the space for artists to create and present their best work and by creating a place where as many people as possible can come together to experience bold, unusual and eye-opening work. We want to take people out of the everyday, every day.

The site has an extraordinary creative and architectural history stretching back to the 1951 Festival of Britain. The Southbank Centre is made up of the Royal Festival Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Purcell Room and Hayward Gallery as well as being home to the National Poetry Library and the Arts Council Collection. It is also home to four Resident Orchestras (London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment) and four Associate Orchestras (Aurora Orchestra, BBC Concert Orchestra, Chineke! Orchestra and National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain).

**About the Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library**

The Southbank Centre's National Poetry Library is the largest public collection of modern poetry in the world and is housed at the Southbank Centre in London. Founded by the Arts Council in 1953 and opened by poets T.S. Eliot and Herbert Read, the library contains over 200,000 items spanning from 1912 to the present day, extensive resources for poets, academics, schools and families. Hosting exhibitions and events, as well as offering an extensive catalogue and ebook service accessible online, the library is free to use [www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk](http://www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk)

The library is currently closed while social distancing measures remain in place, and while the Southbank Centre continues to respond to challenges presented by COVID-19 (see latest statement [here](#)). The National Poetry Library has been running its poetry enquiry service through this lockdown, including its unique 'Lost Quotes' service which joins people up with poems they remember from the past. The e-loans service has provided the latest poetry collections in digital form for people all over the UK to borrow for free, and the library's competition listings have helped the national poetry ecosystem to thrive for budding poets and organisers. We are continuing to expand the poetry collection so there will be more to enjoy when the library reopens.