

**For Immediate Release**

**The 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize - Longlist Announced**  
**Adrienne Clarkson named Chair of the panel of judges**

**Hong Kong, 20 July 2007** – The Administrative Committee for the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize has today announced the longlist of works for this inaugural prize :

Tulsi Badrinath, <i>The Living God</i>	Hitomi Kanehara, <i>Autofiction</i>
Sanjay Bahadur, <i>The Sound Of Water</i>	N S Madhavan, <i>Litanies of Dutch Battery</i>
Kankana Basu, <i>Cappuccino Dusk</i>	Laxmi Narayan Mishra, <i>The Little God</i>
Sanjiv Bhatla, <i>Injustice</i>	Mo Yan, <i>Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out</i>
Shahbano Bilgrami, <i>Without Dreams</i>	Nalini Rajan, <i>The Pangolin's Tale</i>
Saikat Chakraborty, <i>The Amnesiac</i>	Chiew-Siah Tei, <i>Little Hut of Leaping Fishes</i>
Jose Dalisay Jr., <i>Soledad's Sister</i>	Shreekumar Varma, <i>Maria's Room</i>
Reeti Gadekar, <i>Families at Home</i>	Anuradha Vijayakrishnan, <i>Seeing The Girl</i>
Xiaolu Guo, <i>20 Fragments of a Ravenous Youth</i>	Sujatha Vijayaraghavan, <i>Pichaikuppan</i>
Ameena Hussein, <i>The Moon in the Water</i>	Xu Xi, <i>Habit of a Foreign Sky</i>
Nu Nu Yi Inwa, <i>Smile As They Bow</i>	Egoyan Zheng, <i>Fleeting Light</i>
Jiang Rong, <i>Wolf Totem</i>	

This longlist of 23 unpublished works of Asian fiction in English will be reviewed and evaluated by the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize judges, who will announce a shortlist of works in October 2007. The winner will be announced on Saturday, 10 November at an awards ceremony in Hong Kong.

The judging panel for the 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize is: Adrienne Clarkson, former Governor General of Canada (Chair); André Aciman, New York-based author and scholar, and Nicholas Jose, writer, scholar and former Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in China.

The 2007 Man Asian Literary Prize longlist was chosen from among 243 submissions received from all over Asia. Approximately two-thirds of the submissions came from South Asia; the largest single group of submissions was from India. The rest came from throughout East Asia. The Prize received submissions from well-established as well as first-time authors, and entries included translated works as well as works originally in English.

The longlist was produced by a joint committee of senior faculty from the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, overseen by Professors Christopher Hutton and David Parker, Chairs of the respective English Departments.

Peter Gordon, Chairman of the Man Asian Literary Prize, said: “This first year's submissions exceed our expectations both in quantity and breadth. We are very pleased at the reception this inaugural Prize has received throughout the region and to see submissions from almost every country in Asia. Submitting a new work to a new Prize can be a courageous act, especially for unpublished authors, and we are grateful to all the authors who took part.”

Man Group plc is the sponsor of the Man Asian Literary Prize. Man Group also sponsors the annual Man Booker Prize and the bi-annual Man Booker International Prize.

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**Additional information on the website:**

[www.manasianliteraryprize.org](http://www.manasianliteraryprize.org)

**Notes to Editors**

**The Man Asian Literary Prize** will be awarded in November 2007. This major new literary prize aims to recognise the best of new Asian literature and to bring it to the attention of the world literary community. A distinguished panel of judges selects a single work of fiction to be awarded the prize each year. Works submitted for consideration must not yet have been published in English, although they may have been published in other languages. The prize is jointly administered by representatives of the Man Hong Kong International Literary Festival, the University of Hong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and is sponsored by Man Group plc, a leading global financial services firm based in London.

**Man Group plc** is a leading global provider of alternative investment products and solutions. The Group employs around 1,500 people in 14 countries, with key centres in London and Pfäffikon (Switzerland). Man Group plc is listed on the London Stock Exchange (EMG) and is a constituent of the FTSE 100 Index. Man Investments, the Asset Management division, is a global leader in the fast growing alternative investments in industry. It provides access for private and institutional investors worldwide to hedge fund and other alternative investment strategies through a range of products and solutions designed to deliver absolute returns with a low correlation to equity and bond market benchmarks. ([www.mangroupplc.com](http://www.mangroupplc.com))

## Judges biographies



**Adrienne Clarkson** came to Canada as a refugee during the War in 1942. A leading figure in Canada's cultural life, Madame Clarkson had a rich and distinguished career in broadcasting, journalism, the arts and the public service. During her career Madame Clarkson received numerous prestigious awards both in Canada and abroad in recognition for her outstanding contribution in professional and charitable endeavours. Madame Clarkson was Governor General of Canada from 1999 to 2005. Madame Clarkson is a judge of the 2006 Scotiabank Giller Prize. Her memoirs will be published in the Autumn of 2006.



**André Aciman** is the author of *Call Me by Your Name*, *Out of Egypt* and *False Papers: Essays on Exile and Memory*. He has also co-authored and edited *The Proust Project* and *Letters of Transit*. Born in Alexandria, he lived in Italy and France. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University and has taught at Princeton University and Bard College and is currently the chair of The Graduate Center's doctoral program in Comparative Literature and director of The Writers' Institute at The Graduate Center. He is the recipient of a Whiting Writers' Award, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and a fellowship from The New York Public Library's Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers. He has written for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *The New Republic*. He was a judge for the National Book Award in 2001.



**Nicholas Jose** grew up in South Australia and has lived and worked in Britain, Italy and China. He has published short stories, essays, translations, several acclaimed novels, including *Paper Nautilus* (1987, reprinted 2006), *The Rose Crossing* (1994), *The Custodians* (1997) and *The Red Thread* (2000), and a memoir, *Black Sheep: Journey to Borroloola* (2002). His most recent book is a novel, *Original Face* (2005). He was Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy, Beijing, 1987 -1990, and has written widely on contemporary Asian and Australian culture. He was president of Sydney PEN, 2002-2005. He currently holds the Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide and is General Editor of the Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature.

## Author biographies



Born in 1967, **Tulsi Badrinath** lives in Chennai. In addition to her Bachelor's degree in English Literature and MBA, she is also proficient in the classical dance form Bharatanatyam, which she has performed widely in India and abroad. Her poems and articles have appeared in various newspapers and journals. *The Living God* is her first novel.



Born in 1966, **Sanjay Bahadur** grew up in half a dozen cities in north and west India. He has a Masters in Economics from the University of Mumbai and a MBA in Public Service from the University of Birmingham. During 2000- 2004, he worked as a Director in the Indian Ministry of Coal, which gave him the opportunity to observe mining operations and lives of miners at close quarters.



**Kankana Basu** is a freelance journalist and illustrator based in Mumbai, India. She also illustrates children's books and assists in translating the works of her grandfather, the late Bengali author Saradindu Bandopadhyay. Her collection of short stories titled *Vinegar Sunday* was published in November 2004. *Cappuccino Dusk* is her first novel.



**Sanjiv Bhatla** is the author of two published collections of poetry *Looking Back* and *Haiku, My Friend*.



**Shahbano Bilgrami** was born in 1973 in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Her poetry has been published in the Oxford University Press publication, *An Anthology* (1997), a collection of poetry by new Pakistani poets. *Without Dreams* is her first novel.



**Saikat Chakraborty** was born in Calcutta in 1974 and grew up in the same city. He received his Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the University of Houston and has been a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Texas Medical School. He is an assistant professor of chemical engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). *The Amnesiac* is his first novel.



Dr. **Jose Y. Dalisay Jr.** was born in the Philippines in 1954. He writes in both English and Filipino and has published fifteen books of stories, plays, and essays, with five receiving the National Book Award from the Manila Critics Circle. Dalisay teaches English and Creative Writing at the University of the Philippines and has lectured on Philippine culture and politics at universities in the US, UK and Australia.



**Reeti Gadekar** was born and brought up in New Delhi, India. She has a PhD in German Literature from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has worked variously as a librarian, translator and as a teacher of German.



**Xiaolu Guo** was born in a fishing village in Zhejiang Province and studied screenwriting at the Beijing Film Academy. She published six books in China before receiving a scholarship from the British Council in 2002. The English translation of *Village of Stone* (2004) was shortlisted for the *Independent Foreign Fiction Prize*. Her first novel written in English, *A Concise Chinese–English Dictionary for Lovers* (2007) was shortlisted for the Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction. Guo's film *How is Your Fish Today?* (2006) was selected for the Sundance, San Francisco and Rotterdam film festivals and awarded the grand jury prize for best feature film at the International Women's Film Festival in Creteil.



**Ameena Hussein** has published two collections of short stories; *Fifteen*, shortlisted for the Graetien award in 1999 and *Zillij* awarded the State Literary Prize in 2005. While working at the International Centre of Ethnic Studies in Colombo, she produced a report, *Sometimes there is no Blood*, describing ground breaking research on violence against women in rural areas. She is the co-founder of the Perera Hussein Publishing House, established to enable and encourage talented South Asian fiction writers, and has been the editor of *Nethra* since 2004. She lives in Sri Lanka.



**Nu Nu Yi** was born in 1957 in the village of Inwa near Mandalay (as Burmese customarily have no surnames, she affixes the place name as an identifying part of her pen name). Since her debut in 1984, she has written over fifteen novels, a hundred short stories, and various magazine articles. She currently resides in Yangon (Rangoon), although her writings are more often set among the rural poor and social outcasts.



**Jiang Rong** was born in Jiangsu, southern China, in 1946, and graduated from the middle school attached to China Art College in 1966. In 1967, Jiang joined the first wave of intellectuals who moved to the countryside as volunteers, living with nomadic communities on the Chinese border of Inner and Outer Mongolia for 11 years. Following his return to Beijing in 1978, Jiang embarked on post graduate studies in political science at the renowned Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and assumed an academic position at a Beijing university. Now retired, he lives in Beijing, with his wife.



**Hitomi Kanehara** was born in Tokyo on August 8, 1983. She stopped attending school at the age of eleven. After she left home as a teenager, she sent her stories to her literary translator father by e-mail and he helped her edit them. At the age of 21, she wrote *Snakes and Earrings* which won the 2004 Akutagawa Prize, a prestigious Japanese literary award. One of the judges, the celebrated writer Ryu Murakami, said her book was ‘easily the top choice, receiving the highest marks of any work since I became a member of the selection panel.’ The Japanese edition of *Snakes and Earrings* has sold over a million copies, topping all the bestseller lists. Her other books include *Ash Baby*, *Amebic*, and her latest work *Autofiction*.



**N. S. Madhavan’s** first story, *Sisu (The Child)*, 1970) won first prize in a short-story contest for college students conducted by the Malayalam literary journal, *Mathrubhumi*. In 1982, his first collection of short stories, *Chulaimedile Savangal (Corpses of Chulaimedu)* was published. Madhavan had since published four more collections of stories – *Higuita*, *Thiruthu (Blue Pencil)*, *Paryayakathakal (Stories about Names)* and *Nilavili (The Cry)*. His first novel, *Lanthanbatheriyile Luthiniyakal (Litanies of Dutch Battery)* was published in 2003 and won the prize for the best story collection from Kerala Sahitya Akademi (School of Letters).



**Laxmi Narayan Mishra**, born in Orissa, India, is the author of five previous books. He has a PhD from Allahabad University, and teaches English in Orissa.



**Mo Yan**, born on March 25, 1956 in Gaomi, Shandong Province of China. He left primary school in his fifth year during the Cultural Revolution to farm and to work in a factory. In 1976, he joined the People's Liberation Army . During his military service, he worked as a soldier and was given a teaching position and then began writing. In 1991, he received a MA in Literature in Beijing Normal University. In 1997, he left the PLA and worked in Prosecutorial Daily. Mo Yan's major works include: *Red Sorghum* (1987), *Garlic Ballads* (1988), *The Republic of Wine* (1993), *Big Breasts and Wide Hips* (1995), *The Penalty of Sandalwood* (2001), *Forty-one Bombs* (2003), *Life and Death Are Wearing Me Out* (2006).



**Nalini Rajan** is Associate Professor at Asian College of Journalism, Chennai. She has a PhD in Social Communication from the Universite Catholique de Louvain and has been Visiting Fellow at University of Edinburgh, University of Oxford and Hastings Centre for Bio-ethics, New York. She writes on political, economic, social and cultural events for newspapers and magazines and is the author of a number of academic books and articles. *The Pangolin's Tale* is her first novel.



**Chiew-Siah Tei** was born and raised in Tampin, a small town in southern Malaysia. A bilingual writer, she has won a series of awards with her Chinese prose, including the *Hua Zong* International Chinese Fiction Award. She scripted *Night Swimmer* which won Best Short Film at Vendome International Film Festival. Her play, *Three Thousand Troubled Threads*, was staged at Edinburgh International Festival. *Little Hut of Leaping Fishes* is her first novel in English.



**Shreekumar Varma** is a columnist and a lecturer in Creative English. His plays include *Platform* and the award-winning works, *The Dark Lord* and *Bow Of Rama*. His children's books include *The Royal Rebel* (1997) and *Devil's Garden* (2006). His debut novel, *Lament Of Mohini* (2000), was in the Crossword long list. He was awarded the Charles Wallace fellowship in 2004, and was Writer-in-Residence at Stirling University, UK. He is the grandson of Regent Sethu Lakshmi Bayi, the last ruling Maharani of the erstwhile Travancore state. ([www.shreevarma.com](http://www.shreevarma.com))



**Anuradha Vijaykrishnan** was born in Cochin, India and lives in Chennai. Her fiction and poetry have appeared or will appear in print and online publications like *New Writing 14* (*Granta*), *Stony Thursday Anthology*, *The King's English*, *Bare Root Review*, *Desilit*, *Eclectica*, *Orbis* and *Aesthetica* and in *Femina*, *Indian Literature* and *Muse India*. *Seeing The Girl* is her first novel.



**Sujatha Vijayaraghavan** teaches in the Department of English, Pondicherry University and specializes in Indian Writing, Postcolonial Studies and Translation Studies. Forthcoming books include *One Hundred Tamil Folk and Tribal Tales*, translated with a Critical Introduction into English; *Envisioning Man: The Prose Works of Vivekananda, Tagore and Aurobinda*



**Xu Xi** is a Chinese-Indonesian native of Hong Kong and the author of six books of fiction and essays. She also compiled and edited the first comprehensive anthologies of Hong Kong literature in English. ([www.xuxiwriter.com](http://www.xuxiwriter.com))



**Egoyan Zheng** pen name of Qian-Ci Zheng, was born in 1977, Tainan, Taiwan, he studied psychology at National Taiwan University, medicine at Taipei Medical University, and obtained a MA in Chinese Literature from Tamkang University. He is a winner of the Uritas Monthly's New Writers' Award and published his first book *Man In the Urn* at the age of twenty-six.