

# COMHAR

LEABHAIRCOMHAR | COMHARÓG | COMHARTAIGHDE

## PORTRÁIDÍ NA SCRÍBHNEOIRÍ GAEILGE

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## PORTRÁIDÍ NA SCRÍBHNEOIRÍ GAEILGE

### PORTRAITS OF IRISH-LANGUAGE WRITERS

[www.portraidi.ie](http://www.portraidi.ie); [portraidi@gmail.com](mailto:portraidi@gmail.com); [@Portraidi](https://www.facebook.com/portraidi)

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A collaborative project between COMHAR Teo. & Foras na Gaeilge,  
based on digital portraits of Irish-language writers taken by Máire Uí Mhaicín

[www.portraidi.ie](http://www.portraidi.ie)

## PRESS RELEASE: 22 JUNE 2016

COMHAR & Foras na Gaeilge are delighted to announce the launch ceremony of the exceptional book *Portráidí na Scríbhneoirí Gaeilge*; and the innovative website: [www.portraidi.ie](http://www.portraidi.ie). Professor Declan Kiberd (University of Notre Dame) will launch the book and the website in the Pillar Room of the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin tonight at 6pm.

*Portráidí na Scríbhneoirí Gaeilge* is a unique project that celebrates the scope and diversity of the Irish-language Writer, as well as making high-quality photographic material available to the public. This beautiful full-colour curated anthology contains portraits of 107 of the most noteworthy Irish-language writers, both literary and academic, whose portraits were taken between 2009 and 2013 by Máire Uí Mhaicín for Foras na Gaeilge. The collection includes images of poets, short story writers, folklorists, children's authors, scholarly writers, and writers from many other genres. A short biography of each writer, and where possible, some of the writer's work is included while maintaining the emphasis on the portraits themselves. The printed edition also includes an

introduction and some recollective passages and it is hoped that the website will serve as a further valuable archival facility for anyone with an interest in Irish language writers, and Irish writing as a whole. Sound files of the writers reading from their own chosen work are being placed with each online entry to enhance the archival capacity of the project.

This is an historic publication in an important year of commemoration of all aspects of Irish cultural heritage, especially that which has been contributed by Irish language writers. COMHAR is delighted to curate and develop this project in that most of the writers featured have published material in the monthly publication *Comhar*. *Portráidí na Scríbhneoirí Gaeilge* is a multi-annual, multi-stage project. In the first stage of the project, the book and website based on the current archive of portraits is now being launched and made available to the public. In the second stage of the project, new additional portraits will be added to collection on an annual basis, so that the archive of living Irish-language writers can be made as complete as possible.

This is one of the most important projects undertaken in recent years for Irish-language literature, which will give further artistic recognition to the Irish-language writer and their purpose. This project is being undertaken in conjunction with the family of Máire Uí Mhaicín. There will be further information in regard to Stage 2 of the *Portráidí na Scríbhneoirí Gaeilge* project in December 2016.

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## Background

### COMHAR

COMHAR is the national publisher for the Irish language, publishing and distributing a monthly magazine since 1942 with essays covering current affairs, reviews of recently published books, and original literary material. COMHAR also publishes COMHAR Óg, a magazine for post-primary students, COMHARTaighde, an annual peer-reviewed academic journal, and maintains the book-publishing imprint *Leabhair* COMHAR, which publishes up to 7 books a year in a range of genres. COMHAR is grateful for the ongoing support of Foras na Gaeilge, An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta, agus Gaelscolaíochta, Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge and the Arts Council.

### The Photographer: Máire Uí Mhaicín

Máire Uí Mhaicín, lecturer and author, diligently took on the task of photographing Irish-language writers after she had retired from working in third level education. The project was established based on Máire's gifts of language and of photography, combined with her acute understanding of every aspect of Irish literary genre. She had an appreciation of the art of portraiture and the manner in which the subject influences the photographer and vice-versa.

### Foras na Gaeilge

In the Good Friday Agreement, it was stated that a North/South Implementation body (An Foras Teanga) be set up to promote both the Irish language and the Ulster Scots language. Under the auspices of this body, Foras na Gaeilge carries out all the designated responsibilities regarding the Irish language. This entails facilitating and encouraging the speaking and writing of Irish in the public and private contexts in the Republic of Ireland, and in Northern Ireland where there is appropriate demand, in the context of part three of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.



Foras na Gaeilge



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