

# Lee Mackenzie

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## Professional Profile

I am an internationally-published writer, Arts Council-funded artist, and literary editor with five years' teaching experience. I have received a range of funding awards, commissions and publications that are a testament to my competency in producing interesting work, engaging people creatively, and delivering tangible, quality outcomes within projects. I have experience in *writer-in-residence* positions, securing commissioned work as a result, and I have experience of facilitating creative workshops that encourage people to connect with their environment through writing and the creation of artworks. I have produced these workshops for a range of ages (5 to 95) in a variety of settings, and as a qualified teacher of English, I have a good knowledge of pedagogical trends. I often collaborate with other artists as a member of two locally-engaged artistic cooperatives. *References available on request.*

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## Employment

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| Mar 2026 – ongoing   | <b>Lead Artist at Friction Arts – Birmingham</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Coordinating and leading the Children in Need-funded weekly Art Club.</li><li>● Curating and designing their summer carnival..</li></ul>                                                                                                                                              |
| Sep 2023 – Mar 2026  | <b>Project Manager at Forward Arts Foundation – London/Remote</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Coordinating partner activity, social media management, developing school networks for <i>National Poetry Day</i>.</li><li>● Curation, proof-reading and administrative support for <i>Forward Prizes</i>.</li></ul>                                                 |
| Mar 2021 – Mar 2023  | <b>Assistant Editor of Neon Books – Edinburgh, Scotland</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Submission selection, copywriting, editing content, proof-reading, administrative support, branding and social-media management.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                 |
| Sep 2019 – July 2020 | <b>Lee Mackenzie Writing Services - Aarhus, Denmark</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Copy-writing and proof-reading support for Danish businesses.</li><li>● Creation and facilitation of workshops exploring creative use of language in English poetry writing for non-native speakers. (1-1 and groups of 3-10 people)</li></ul>                                 |
| Jan 2018 – Sep 2019  | <b>Poet-in-Residence - Walthamstow Wetlands, Walthamstow</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Creation and facilitation of poetry writing curriculum.</li><li>● Walking writing workshops, editorial support, one-to-one feedback. (Groups of 10-25 people)</li></ul>                                                                                                   |
| Oct 2018 – July 2019 | <b>Writer-in-Residence - Josephine Butler College, Durham University</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Community engagement through workshops, performance, the creation of a poetry archive and mentoring.</li><li>● Arts leadership through brand-creation, budgeting, planning of events, promotion and networking. (Engagement with 750 people)</li></ul>        |
| May 2018 – Oct 2018  | <b>Project Manager and Research Assistant - Imperial College London</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Administration, logistics and technical project management on a leading research project into land management techniques and <i>Rewilding</i> in the Scottish Highlands. (Led team of 4)</li></ul>                                                             |
| Dec 2014 – Dec 2017  | <b>Teacher of English - Ninestiles Academy School, Birmingham</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Teaching and Learning Responsibility (TLR) researching the school's online platform.</li><li>● Took central role in administration and execution of Duke of Edinburgh.</li><li>● Rated as an 'Outstanding' teacher within a school rated as 'Outstanding'.</li></ul> |

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## Commissions / Residencies / Funding Awards

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| Mar 2026  | 'Grounding', Lead Artist, Commission, Community Project & Exhibition, Lighthouse Arts: <a href="#">ongoing</a>    |
| Feb 2026  | 'TLC Free Reads', Poetry Manuscript Assessment, Writing West Midlands: <a href="#">ongoing</a>                    |
| Oct 2025  | 'Poetry Room', R&D and Commission, Createch, Birmingham City University and AHRC: <a href="#">ongoing</a>         |
| Mar 2025  | 'Time Statue', Commission, Churches Conservation Trust, St. Swithin's Church: <a href="#">Seven Stops</a>         |
| Dec 2024  | 'Green Roots', Commission & Community Project, Multistory: <a href="#">Sounding the West Bromwich Way</a>         |
| May 2024  | 'Unmasking II Remapping', Commission & Community Project, Grand Union: <a href="#">Flatpack Map</a>               |
| Aug 2023  | 'Tap Into It', Residency, Commission & Community Project, Elan Links: <a href="#">Elan Valley Aqueduct</a>        |
| Aug 2022  | 'Eilean Shona Writing Retreat Scholarship', Shona Arts: <a href="#">Poetic Mapping of Eilean Shona</a>            |
| Apr 2022  | 'Summer of Creativity', Commission & Community Project, CBC: <a href="#">Netherton Creative Map</a>               |
| Mar 2022  | 'Outreach for Judith Alder', Workshops & Exhibition Support, RBSA Gallery: <a href="#">Vital Signs</a>            |
| Jan 2022  | 'Jean Harrison Project', Commission, Museum of North Craven Life: <a href="#">This is a good place</a>            |
| Dec 2021  | 'Winter Open Show', Exhibition, Artefact: <a href="#">You are the fresh breeze</a>                                |
| Oct 2021  | 'Editorial Map', Commission, Neon Books: <a href="#">Issue 53 / The Cities Issue</a>                              |
| Jun 2021  | 'The Ujamaa Project', Commission, Writerz & Scribez/The National Trust: <a href="#">You are the fresh breeze</a>  |
| Apr 2021  | 'Eccles Centre Visiting Fellowship, Funding Award, Eccles Centre, British Library: <a href="#">Poetic Mapping</a> |
| Dec 2020  | 'Develop Your Creative Practice', Funding Award, Arts Council England: <a href="#">Poetry Maps</a>                |
| Oct 2019  | 'Athena Swan', Commission & Exhibition, Psychology Dept., Durham University: <a href="#">Jewels in the Dark</a>   |
| June 2019 | 'Durham Arts Festival', Commission & Exhibition, Durham: <a href="#">The Voice of Tan</a>                         |

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## Poetry Publications

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| Jan 2024  | <i>Issue 21</i> (ed. Hayriye Unal et al.) Buzdokuz Poetry Theory, Ankara, Turkey: <b>Elan to Birmingham</b> |
| Mar 2020  | <i>The Rhysling Anthology</i> (ed. David C. Kopaska-Merkel), Sci-Fi Poetry, Alabama, US: <b>Nan-e</b>       |
| Nov 2019  | <i>Issue 49</i> (ed. Krishan Coupland), Neon, Edinburgh: <b>Nan-e</b>                                       |
| Sep 2019  | <i>Issue 1</i> (eds. Suna Afshan et al.), Poetry Birmingham Literary Journal, Birmingham: <b>The Tick</b>   |
| Aug 2019  | <i>Summer 2019 Issue</i> (ed. Maria Isakova), Coast to Coast to Coast, Liverpool: <b>Super Wolf Moon</b>    |
| Oct 2018  | <i>20-20: Twenty poems... 2018</i> (ed. Janice Dempsey), Dempsey & Windle, Guildford: <b>Teaching</b>       |
| Sep 2018  | <i>By and for men and women... (Issue 104)</i> , Reflections Poetry, London: <b>Skylark and the Heron</b>   |
| Aug 2018  | <i>Online</i> (ed. Guy Armitage), Zealous, London: <b>Detritus</b>                                          |
| July 2018 | <i>Online</i> (ed. Joe Pickard), Pulp Poets Press, London: <b>The Mortgage</b>                              |
| May 2018  | <i>Issue 94</i> (ed. Briony Bax), The New European, Norwich: <b>Bury me...</b>                              |

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## Prizes / Nominations

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|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 2021 | '2020 Café Writers Poetry Competition', Shortlisted (by Helen Ivory), Café Writers: <b>Seeds</b> |
| Nov 2020 | 'Winter Warmers', Highly Commended, Inn Crowd: <b>Present</b>                                    |
| Feb 2020 | '2020 Forward Prize for Best Single Poem', Nomination, Neon Books: <b>Nan-e</b>                  |

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## Membership

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|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 2021 – ongoing  | <i>Artefact Gallery</i> , Stirchley, Birmingham - Owner/Manager - Manage events and creative writing group, <i>Work in Progress</i> ; lead admin. and accounting; curate and install exhibitions. |
| Oct 2019 - July 2021 | <i>Forest Poets Poetry Stanza</i> , Poetry Society, Walthamstow, London - feedback and edit other member's work.                                                                                  |