

## Trevor Joyce

### Outline Bio



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Trevor Joyce's poetry and occasional critical essays have been translated into many languages, and published on four continents. He has given public readings and spoken about his work at numerous venues across Europe and America. He has been included in representative anthologies, including the *Penguin Book of Irish Poetry*, the *OUP Anthology of Twentieth-Century British and Irish Poetry*, and the forthcoming fourth volume of the *Wake Forest Series of Irish Poetry*. For almost fifty years his has been a unique voice in Irish writing.

Joyce's early work (e.g. *Pentahedron* [1972]) explored some possibilities of the lyric, and began an engagement with translation through versions of medieval Irish texts. In *The Poems of Sweeny Peregrine* (1976), he drew on the same source text as that used by Seamus Heaney's *Sweeney Astray* a decade later. In the mid-seventies he gave up publishing his writing and turned instead to work as a systems analyst in industry. He also studied Chinese poetry and was invited in his capacity as poet to visit the People's Republic of China as deputy leader of an Irish delegation.

His later work, following a return to publication after almost twenty years, calls on that experience in several ways. In it, he extends the earlier explorations in ways unparalleled within Irish poetry. Successive books (e.g. *with the first dream of fire they hunt the cold* [2001], *What's in Store* [2008]) explore the possibilities of found text, computer-mediated composition, and writing under constraint. He has also produced workings from classical Chinese poetry, from Hungarian, Finno-Ugric and Turkic folk-songs, and from anonymous materials out of the Irish folk tradition.

Joyce has been influential in making available the work of several generations of Irish poets marked by an urge to extend the given boundaries. He co-founded, in Dublin, the New Writers' Press and its journal *The Lace Curtain* in the late sixties, and then the annual SoundEye Festival in Cork in the nineties.

A collection of essays on Joyce's poetry was brought out by Shearsman Books last year to accompany publication of his *Selected Poems*. He was a Fulbright Scholar in 2002/3 and served as Visiting Fellow in Poetry to the University of Cambridge in 2009/10. He was elected to Aosdána, the Irish affiliation of artists, in 2004.

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### *Appreciations of NWP & SoundEye*

*New Writers' Press has helped to amplify the voices of Irish modernism in such a way as to emphasize the modernity even more than the Irishness. These are voices which cannot be constrained by any facile notion of tradition, but which treat literature as an element of everyday vision.*

— Declan Kiberd

*SoundEye has caught the attention of those interested in cutting edge work in poetry in the United States as well as England and Ireland. Without question it is the most innovative and most important literary gathering to take place in Ireland – or just about anywhere else – over the last decade.*

— Charles Bernstein