

**PRESS RELEASE**

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 **Kelpies 2018**  
Illustration Prize

**Winner announced for First World War book cover competition**

Edinburgh-based publisher Floris Books will today announce Moira Scicluna Zahra as the winner of the Kelpies Illustration Prize 2018. The prize will be announced online by author and book illustration champion Vivian French MBE.

To commemorate the centenary of the First World War armistice, Kelpies Illustration Prize entrants were challenged to design a cover for *Soldier's Game* by James Killgore. This children's novel is based on the remarkable true story of Edinburgh's 'Hearts Battalion', the 16<sup>th</sup> Royal Scots.

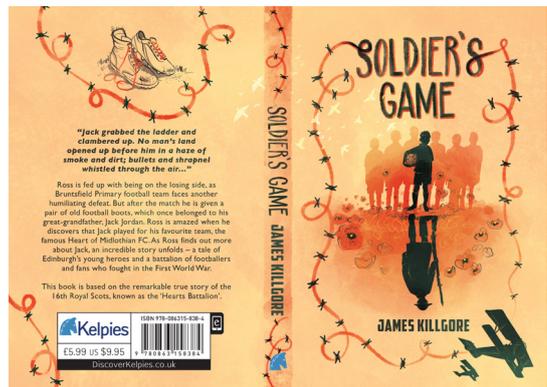
Zahra is currently an illustration artist in residence at Edinburgh College of Art School of Design, and also works as a freelance illustrator and graphic designer. She impressed the judges with her striking and sensitive representation of the protagonists, the skilful illustration of First World War motifs, and a well-considered design that would really appeal to the book's 8-12 year old readership.

In a new partnership for 2018, Advocate Art – a London-based Illustration and Publishing Agency – will provide Zahra with a coveted individual portfolio review with an illustration agent at this year's London Book Fair. She will also be awarded a £250 cash prize.

Edinburgh College student Ruyana Ruzgar will be announced as this year's Highly Commended design, and Laura Villarreal will receive the People's Choice award following a popular online vote. Each will receive a £75 cash prize.

Leah McDowell, Art & Production Director at Floris Books, said,

*"It is encouraging to see designs from so many exceptionally talented illustrators from across Scotland. Moira clearly immersed herself in the marketplace to create a beautiful cover that readers would be drawn to – an expert fulfilment of the brief! We're incredibly pleased to be working with Advocate Art to provide Moira with an amazing opportunity of a portfolio review. This one-to-one feedback from an agent is invaluable for designers and illustrators for building on their existing talent."*



Moira Scicluna Zahra  
Winner of the  
Kelpies Illustration Prize 2018,  
and her winning design

**More Information**

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In association with **advocate art**

**Notes for Editors**

1. Floris Books is an independent publisher based in Edinburgh. Established 40 years ago, it is the largest children's publisher in Scotland and winner of the Saltire Society Scottish Publisher of the Year 2016.
2. The Kelpies range, published by Floris Books since 2002, comprises over 65 children's novels set in Scotland or with Scottish themes, suitable for children from 8 to 12 years old.
3. Floris Books also runs the annual Kelpies Prize for unpublished Scottish children's books. The winning author is published in the Kelpies range.
4. The Kelpies are supported by Creative Scotland.