

PRESS RELEASE

21st September 2026

Contact: Kirsten Graham

kirsten@florisbooks.co.uk



Kelpies Prize 2026 Winners Announced

Edinburgh-based publisher Floris Books announced the winners of the Kelpies Prize for Writing and Illustration 2026 at an exclusive award ceremony on Friday 18th September.

Christine Irvine, a queer writer from East Kilbride who now lives in Glasgow, is the winner of the Kelpies Prize for Writing. Christine's writing grabbed the judges' attention from the off – they enjoyed her skilled weaving of lyrical storytelling with drama and tension.

Susan Mitchell, an illustrator and designer from Edinburgh and graduate of Edinburgh College of Art, is the winner of the Kelpies Prize for Illustration. The judges praised Susan's charming, tactile textures, characterful creatures and a pleasing palette evocative of the Scottish landscape.

Entrants to the 2026 prize were asked to provide a selection of writing or illustration samples suitable for a children's book, which showcased their range and creativity. All the entries were anonymised and the judges were delighted by the standard of work received. The Floris team looks forward to embarking on 9 months of mentoring with Christine and Susan.



Christine Irvine



Susan Mitchell

Notes for Editors

- Floris Books is an independent publisher based in Edinburgh. Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, it is the largest independent children's publisher in Scotland.
- The Kelpies imprint has been published by Floris Books since 2002 and features quality Scottish books for children everywhere.

More Information

More information and images from Kirsten Graham, Marketing Campaigns Executive, Floris Books

✉ kirsten@florisbooks.co.uk

🐾 DiscoverKelpies.co.uk/kelpies-prizes



Nadine Aisha Jassat, Susan Mitchell, Christine Irvine, Janis Mackay



Susan Mitchell



Christine Irvine



Nadine Aisha Jassat on stage

