



Media Release #15

Dublin 2019 - An Irish Worldcon
Dublin, Ireland
August 15-19, 2019
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Comic artist Sana Takeda and playwright Rosaleen McDonagh join Dublin 2019

Hugo award winning comic book artist [Sana Takeda](#) will be a featured artist at [Dublin 2019 – An Irish Worldcon](#).

Based in Tokyo, Takeda is best known for drawing the prizewinning [Monstress](#) series, written by Marjorie Liu and published by Image. The heroine of *Monstress*, Maika Halfwolf, survives bereavement, slavery, and disabling injury to take control of her psychic powers and change her people's history. Since it premiered in 2015, *Monstress* has won three Hugos, five Eisners, three British Fantasy Awards and a Harvey Award.

Takeda's artistic reference points range from Japanese woodblock prints to Marvel Comics, where she has drawn for franchises including *X-Men* and *Ms. Marvel*. She joins Afua Richardson, Maeve Clancy, and Jim Fitzpatrick on the featured artist roster.

Equally excitingly, [Rosaleen McDonagh](#), playwright and activist for the Irish Traveller community, will be discussing Irish Traveller culture at Dublin 2019. Her plays including *Mainstream*, *Stuck*, *She's Not Mine*, and *Rings* explore aspects of feminism, ethnicity and disability. She has been chosen by Colum McCann to adopt his novel *Zoli*, the story of a Polish Roma poet and writer.

McDonagh worked for ten years managing the Violence against Women Programme at the Pavee Point Traveller & Romany Centre. She writes for the *Irish Times* and is completing a PhD that will be her fourth degree from Trinity College Dublin. She was the first Traveller invited to join the Irish artists' academy Aosdána in 2017, and the first

Traveller to stand for election to the Seanad, the Irish legislature's upper house, in 2002 and 2007.

"It is important to us that we share all aspects of Irish culture and brilliance with our members," Dublin 2019 chair James Bacon said. "We look forward to bringing our own artists in all media together with the fantastic slate of worldwide talent who will be joining us in Dublin."

Panels, talks and workshops with featured artists, the art show and the art auction form a major programme track and a cherished tradition at Worldcons. Dublin 2019 will be the 77th annual World Science Fiction Convention, the first to be held in Ireland and the eleventh in Europe.

Dublin 2019 - An Irish Worldcon will take place in the Convention Centre Dublin from August 15 to August 19. More than 5200 people have already signed up as members, including more than 4250 attending members. More than 700 people will be attending Worldcon for the first time.

Other activities at the Dublin Worldcon will include the 2019 Hugo Awards, the world's leading awards for excellence in science fiction and fantasy, as well as the spectacular Masquerade costume display. There are typically 650 to 800 separate programme items, including author readings and autograph sessions, films and videos, academic presentations, and panel discussions on speculative literature and other media, many involving fans and audience.

Guests of Honour for Dublin 2019 include YA author Diane Duane, and screenwriter and Hugo winner Ian McDonald, as well as game designer Steve Jackson (Melee, Chaos Machine, Munchkin) and editor Ginjer Buchanan. Science Guest of Honour will be Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell, who discovered radio pulsars in 1967 as a postgraduate student. Bill and Mary Burns will be fan Guests of Honour.

Dublin 2019 featured artist websites:

<http://www.sanatakeda.com/>

<https://www.afuarichardson.com/>

<https://www.jimfitzpatrick.com/>

<http://www.maeveclancy.com/>

More information and membership registration for Dublin 2019 are available at <https://dublin2019.com>. Follow us on Twitter at [@dublin2019](https://twitter.com/dublin2019).

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The World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) is a five-day event that has been held annually since 1939, apart from a four-year break during the Second World War.