

Mukahang Limbu

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Award-Winning Writer • Editor

EDUCATION

The Queen's College, University of Oxford (2019-2023)

- BA Hons English and Modern Languages (German)

Essays: Shakespeare Portfolio: 1. Shakespeare's Scimitar 2. The Balcony in India: Appropriations, Co-authorship, and the Postcolonial in *Romeo and Juliet* 3. 'Her delicate tenderness will find itself abused': Shakespeare's 'cutification' in *Othello* and *The Rape of Lucrece*

Film Criticism: Overlap and Overcrowding the Frame in Josef von Sternberg's *Shanghai Express* (1932)

Dissertation: 'Tenderness/ a thing to be beaten/ into': The Poetics of the Queer Asian Body in Ocean Vuong and Contemporary Queer Asian Poets

College Awards and Grants: Hawley Fund Grant (£2300), Collection Prizes.

A Levels: English Literature (A*), German (A), History (A), Creative Writing (A*). Oxford Spire Academy — state comprehensive.

EXPERIENCE

Author, Madeleine Milburn Literary Agency (Sep 2024-Present)

- [Winner of The Borough Press' Non-Fiction Open Submission Competition](#), in partnership with *The Times* and *Madeleine Milburn Literary Agency*, awarded a £10,000 publishing contract with The Borough Press and literary representation.
- Memoir titled 'Egg-Fried Rice' to be published in 2027, exploring themes of queer identity, British-Nepali heritage, and the experience of being part of an often-invisible diaspora.

Harper Wood Scholar, St John's College, University of Cambridge (Oct 2023-Oct 2024)

- [Selected as sole recipient](#) of the highly competitive Harper Wood Creative Writing and Travel Award. Received one year of funding to support research and writing abroad, and became an affiliated fellow of St John's College.
- Spent time in Hong Kong, New York, Seoul, Mumbai, and Goa. Period abroad included intensive research work on LGBTQ+ communities, Nepali diaspora, and other topics as well as working on freelance assignments and developing my writing.

Freelance Writer (Mar 2015-Present)

- Commissioned by Amnesty International, ['Words that Burn.'](#) (Oct 2020) to write a prompt and poem for the 30th anniversary of The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child; Commissioned by *The Poetry Society* (Aug 2018) to write a [review](#) on 'The House of Thirst' issue of 'Modern Poetry in Translation'; Commissioned to write [essay](#) for *The Author Magazine* (Oct 2023) among many others.
- Featured by *The Times*, *Verve Poetry Press*, *The Poetry Review*, *BBC Radio 4*, *Poetry London*, *Picador Anthology* among various others.

Marketing and Communications Trainee, FORWARD ARTS FOUNDATION (Mar-Oct 2025)

- Wrote and edited daily social media copy for two national literary programmes, National Poetry Day and The Forward Prizes (25K+ combined followers), adapting tone and style for Instagram, X, and Facebook audiences.
- Crafted compelling captions, calls-to-action, and campaign copy that translated complex literary content into accessible, scroll-stopping posts for general audiences.
- Developed scripts and copy for multimedia content including video reels, audio clips, and promotional assets, maintaining consistent brand voice across all formats.

Poet, Mother of Flip-Flops, Outspoken Press (June 2022)

- Debut poetry pamphlet, [Mother of Flip-Flops](#), published by Outspoken Press in 2022 and selected as the Poetry Book Society's Pamphlet Choice for Winter 2022; it was also featured in [The Guardian's list of 'Best Recent Poetry'](#).
- The pamphlet received the [Eric Gregory Award](#) (2023) from the Society of Authors, a prize awarded once to poets under the age of 30. Pamphlet was reviewed by Jane Yeh for its 'supple lines and perceptive observations' and its 'sophisticated intelligence and audacious flair' in exploring boyhood, family, and identity.

Editor in Chief, The Isis Magazine (Dec 2020-Mar 2021)

- Led editorial vision for the UK's longest-running student publication, editing 100+ submissions across formats from poetry to long-form journalism and delivering a published print issue ['Hotpot'](#) to 7,500+ readers.
- Managed social media channels (Instagram, X, Facebook), overseeing content strategy, editorial quality and community engagement across platforms.
- Coordinated events and programming including workshops, poetry readings with acclaimed writers, and competitions, liaising with high-profile judges and creative partners.

Poetry Editor, *The Oxford Review of Books* (April 2020-March 2021)

- Edited poetry submissions for two issues and three terms of the *Condé Nast* publication *The Oxford Review of Books*, sold nationally across WH Smith stores, Blackwell's, and the LRB Bookshop.
- Organised Virtual Poetry Evenings using Facebook livestream and conducted virtual interviews with award winning poets Kayo Chingonyi and Jennifer Wong.

AWARDS

- Overall [Winner](#) of the First Story National Writing Competition, *First Story*
- KS4 [Winner](#) of The Times and The Sunday Times
- Cheltenham Literature Festival Poetry Competition, *Cheltenham Literature Festival*
- [Winner](#) of Oxford German Olympiad 'Comic Sketch' Category, *Oxford German Olympiad*
- Commended in the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2016, 2017 and 2018, *The Poetry Society*
- [Overall Winner](#) of the Peregrine Prize for Young Writers, won title of 'Oxford City Young Writer 2017-18, *Oxford Writer's House*
- [Winner](#) of 16-19 Creative-Critical Category for poem and commentary, *Forward/emagazine Student Critics Competition*
- [Winner](#) of SLAMBassadors, *The Poetry Society*
- [Overall Winner](#) and Page category [Winner](#) of the Outspoken Prize for Poetry, *The Outspoken Press*
- Winner of the Martin Starkie Prize and Dart Prize, *Oxford University Poetry Society's Annual Poetry Competitions*
- [Shortlisted](#) in the Hollingworth Prize for Poetry, *Sine Wave Peak and Partus Press*
- [Longlisted](#) in the National Poetry Competition, *The Poetry Society*
- Commended in Betjeman Poetry Prize, *National Poetry Day*
- Highly Commended Forward Prizes for Poetry 2022, *Forward Arts Foundation*
- Poetry Book Society [Pamphlet Choice](#) Winter 2022, *Poetry Book Society*
- [Winner](#) of Eric Gregory Award 2023, *Society of Authors*
- [Winner](#) of Harper Wood Writing & Travel Award 2023-2024, *St John's College, University of Cambridge*
- [Winner](#) of The Borough Press' Non-fiction Open Submission Competition, *Times and Madeleine Milburn Literary Agency*
- [Commended](#) in 2025 Telegraph Poetry Competition

PUBLICATIONS & FEATURES

- Prize-winning Poem Published in [The Times](#)
- Picador Anthology '[England: Poems from a School](#)' edited by Orwell Prize Winner Kate Clanchy
- Two Poems Published in the [Kindling Journal](#)
- Poem Published in [Poetry London](#)
- Poem Published on [Poetry Society](#)
- Poem published on [Amnesty International](#)
- Works Published in '[Nascent](#)' with Outspoken Press
- Published in [Bath Magg](#)
- Published in '[Away with Words](#)'
- Short film coverage by BBC [Oxford](#)
- Essay and Poem published English and Media Centre
- 'Tell Me the Truth About Life', anthology curated by Cerys Matthews marking 25th anniversary of National Poetry Day
- Published in the [Isis Magazine](#)
- Published in [Oxford Poetry \(Issue 92\)](#)
- Published in [The Forward Book of Poetry 2023](#)
- Debut Pamphlet '[Mother of Flip-Flops](#)' by Outspoken Press
- [Debut Pamphlet reviewed in The Guardian](#)
- Essay Published in [The Author](#) (Autumn 2023 – vol 134.3)
- [State of Play: Poets of East & Southeast Asian Heritage in Conversation, Edited by Eddie Tay & Jennifer Wong, Outspoken Press](#)
- [Published in Language Is A Queer Thing 2 \[2024\], Verve Poetry Press](#)
- Poem published in [Cordite Poetry Review](#), 112: TREAT
- [The Poetry Review](#), Vol 114, No 4, Winter 2024
- Published in Anthology [Somewhere There Is A Sky For Us](#) (Verve Poetry Press, 2025)

PUBLIC PERFORMANCES & READINGS

- Poetry [Reading](#) at ‘Race and Poetics and Poetry in the UK: Legacies of Colonialism’
- Poetry [Reading](#) at 5x15
- Poetry [Reading](#) at Ledbury Poetry Festival
- Oxford Mail [article](#)
- Linguamania [Podcast](#)
- BBC [Radio 4: Front Row](#) Interview
- BBC [Radio 6](#) Interview
- BBC [Breakfast](#) Interview
- BBC [Radio 6](#) Interview with Raymond Antrobus
- Poetry reading for charity SolidariTEE
- Opening act at Southbank Centre for Out-Spoken Live at Southbank Centre
- [Interview](#) with Journalist Biswa Limbu
- Poetry Reading, ‘A Tapestry of Home’ with Torch Oxford, curated by Jennifer Wong
- Green Man Festival 2021
- [Interview](#) with Lex Limbu on ‘Ek Chin with...’ Podcast
- [Meet the World Panel Discussion](#), National Centre for Writing
- [BBC Contains Strong Language Festival](#), *Language is a Queer Thing* 2023
- BBC Radio 4: The Verb, BBC Contains Strong Language
- Poetry Reading at Spoken Fest 2024, ‘Asia’s Largest Spoken Word Festival’.

ACTIVITIES & SKILLS

Technical skills	Canva, Adobe InDesign, WordPress, Microsoft Office (Word, Excel etc.), Sibelius, Mail Chimp, GarageBand, Audacity.
Languages	English (Fluent), Nepali (Native), German (C1+), Hindi (Intermediate), Urdu (Intermediate), French (Learning), Korean (Conversational)
Creative Arts	Directed and acted in a cast of 50+ for ‘House Drama Competition’ at Oxford Spires Academy • Directed, adapted Hans Christian Andersen’s ‘The Little Mermaid’, German play for the Oxford German Olympiad • Teacher’s assistant for a week at ‘Amanda Alder’ dance academy • Member of EquinOx, Oxford University based Dance Crew • Founded a Contemporary R&B Band ‘Mango Sorbet’ at university.
Volunteering	Welfare Representative at The Queen’s College, Oxford • Volunteer at Turl Street Homeless Action • The Holocaust Education Trust’s Lesson from Auschwitz Project.
Interests	Badminton, Cooking, Literature, Art, Theatre, Film, Dance, Journalism, Languages, Voguing, Waacking, Ultimate Frisbee, Producing, Singing.