

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o

Kikuyu writer, scholar and activist. Born in Kenya, 1938.

Valued as a social critic, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's work focuses on cultural and social issues affecting Kenya.

In 1962, the year Kenya gained independence, Ngũgĩ embarked on his literary career with a play entitled *The Black Hermit*.

From 1962 to 1977, he won acclaim in Kenya and internationally for the social criticism that came to characterise his work, which addresses cultural and social issues affecting Kenya.

He was imprisoned in 1977 but released a year later thanks to a campaign launched by Amnesty International. In 1978, he went into exile, first in Great Britain and later in the United States.

He currently lives in California, where he teaches at the University of California at Irvine.

www.ngugiwathiongo.com

CATALONIA INTERNATIONAL PRIZE



The Catalonia International Prize is awarded annually to individuals whose creative work has made a notable contribution to developing cultural, scientific or human values around the world. Winners receive a cash prize of €80,000 and the sculpture *La clau i la lletra*, by Catalan artist Antoni Tàpies.

































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THE JURY

According to the jury, NGŪGĨ WA THIONG'O, one of the most prolific and widely recognised African authors, combines critical analysis of the social environment with empathetic and incisive treatment of both fictional characters and real people.

He has been awarded the prize for his daring and distinguished literary work and his defence of African languages, which is grounded in the idea that language embodies culture and collective memory.

PREVIOUS WINNERS

 1989 Karl R. Popper , British philosopher	 1997 Amartya Sen , Indian economist	 2005 Claude Lévi-Strauss , French anthropologist	 2012 Lula da Silva , Brazilian politician
 1990 Abdus Salam , Pakistani physicist	 1998 Jacques Delors , French politician	 2006 Pere Casaldàliga , Brazilian bishop	 2013 (shared) Gro H. Brundtland , Norwegian politician,
 1991 Jacques-Yves Cousteau , French oceanographer	 1999 Doris Lessing , British writer	 2007 Edward O. Wilson , American biologist	 and Malala Yousafzai , Pakistani activist
 1992 Mstislav Rostropovich , Russian cellist	 2000 Abdallah Laroui , Moroccan historian	 2008 (shared) Cynthia Maung , Burmese doctor,	 2014 Desmond Tutu , South African archbishop
 1993 Luigi Luca Cavalli-Sforza , Italian geneticist	 2001 Andrea Riccardi , Italian historian and aid worker	 and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi , Burmese politician	 2015 Jane Goodall , British primatologist
 1994 Edgar Morin , French philosopher	 2002 Harold Bloom , American essayist	 2009 Bill Viola , American video artist	 2016 (shared) Joan Massagué , Josep Baselga and Manel Esteller , Catalan oncologists
 1995 (shared) Václav Havel , Czech politician, and Richard von Weizsäcker , German politician	 2003 Nawal al-Sa'dawi , Egyptian writer and activist	 2010 Jimmy Carter , American politician	 2017 Costa-Gavras , Greek film-maker
 1996 Yashar Kemal , Turkish writer	 2004 (shared) Sari Nusseibeh , Palestinian philosopher, and Amos Oz , Israeli writer	 2011 Haruki Murakami , Japanese writer	 2018 Vinton G. Cerf , American engineer

MORE INFORMATION

- JURY: https://presidencia.gencat.cat/ca/ambits_d_actuacio/premis/premi-internacional-catalunya/jurat/
- WINNERS: https://presidencia.gencat.cat/ca/ambits_d_actuacio/premis/premi-internacional-catalunya/guardons-anteriors/
- RULES: https://presidencia.gencat.cat/ca/ambits_d_actuacio/premis/premi-internacional-catalunya/bases/