

## Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe

### *Astronomer Royal, Greenwich*

Written in response to **Yuri Pattison**, *dream sequence*

**Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe** is a poet, pacifist and fabulist. *Auguries of a Minor God*, her first collection, was published by Faber & Faber in 2021. A finalist for the Dylan Thomas Prize, John Pollard Foundation International Poetry Prize, Michael Murphy Memorial Prize and the Butler Literary Award, it was chosen as a Poetry Book Society Recommendation, National Poetry Day Recommendation, Shakespeare & Co. Year of Reading Selection, and a Book of the Year by both The Irish Times and The Irish Independent. In 2023, she was appointed the Rooney Writer Fellow at Trinity College Dublin. Nidhi is an editorial director at Skein Press, contributing editor at The Stinging Fly, and serves on the Expert Advisory Committee to Culture Ireland.

The **Temple Bar Gallery + Studios Writing Commission** aims to expand ideas around writing about art by inviting Irish authors to create a series of pieces inspired by the exhibitions at Temple Bar Gallery + Studios. In 2024, TBG+S has commissioned Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe to make a piece of writing inspired by each of the exhibitions in the gallery programme.

Over the last ten years Temple Bar Gallery + Studios has commissioned ground-breaking Irish writers to write on the gallery programme. Previous writers include Sara Baume (2015), Claire-Louise Bennett (2016), Gavin Corbett (2017), Doireann Ní Ghríofa (2018), Annemarie Ní Churreáin (2019), and Ian Maleney (2020), Nicole Flattery (2021), Thomas Morris (2022), Pdraig Regan (2023).

The texts are available to download from [www.templebargallery.com](http://www.templebargallery.com) and printed copies are available in the gallery.

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## **Astronomer Royal, Greenwich**

Hunched over in the observatory, in a queer state, clock hands aligned at noon, worrying: questions relating to the principles of light and the enunciation of the complete theory of the rainbow, an investigation into the mass of Jupiter and the discovery of a new inequality in the motions of Venus and the Earth, keeping an eye out for Neptune even though the search for new planets was never really his responsibility. The altazimuth swivels on its axis, cold nights spent sifting through stars, a line to demarcate the centre of the world – still, the telescope struggles to bring us any closer to infinity, and one could argue that we all lose something of ourselves, to the day, in the meantime.