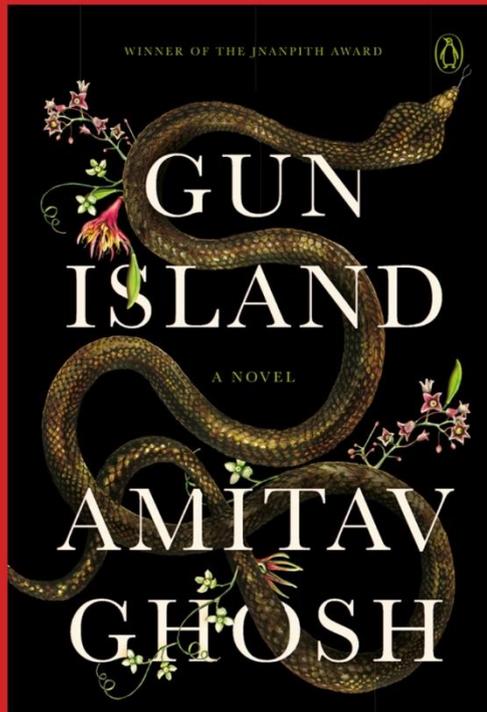


OXFORD
BOOKSTORE
Book Cover Prize

GUNJAN AHLAWAT



WINNER
6th

OXFORD
BOOKSTORE
Book Cover Prize

GUNJAN AHLAWAT

Wins the Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize 2021

For the cover of 'Gun Island' published by Hamish Hamilton

25th February, 2021: The Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize, a first of its kind award for brilliance in book design, an attempt by the iconic bookstore to recognize and encourage the extraordinary work of illustrators, designers and publishers throughout India announced its Winner for the sixth edition of the award at the **Jaipur BookMark of Jaipur Literature Festival**.

Well known, Graphic Designer **Gunjan Ahlawat** was awarded the prestigious award by Jurors Priti Paul, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Namita Gokhale, Kunal Basu and Shobhaa De at Jaipur BookMark Virtual program.

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B o o k C o v e r P r i z e

Announcing Gunjan Ahlawat as the winner of the Prize the Jury said *“The Jury of the Oxford Bookstore Cover Prize is delighted to award the 2021 prize to Gunjan Ahlawat for the cover of ‘Gun Island’ by Amitav Ghosh, which is published by Hamish Hamilton, an imprint of Penguin Random House.*

We commend the dramatic graphics and meticulous attention to detail in the cover image. The genius of the textual narrative finds resonance in the sensuous movement of the snake, slithering as it does across the spine to the back cover. The deep integration of the title and the author’s name into the illustration is thoughtfully rendered. The selected visual appropriately and aesthetically represents the core and movement of the story. The typography aligns seamlessly with the coiled serpent offering a unique and emblematic visual identity to the book.

It was as ever a difficult task to choose from so many creative and inspired cover designs. The jury would like to make special mention of Pinaki De’s evocative cover design for ‘Moom’ by Bani Basu, translated by Arunava Sinha and published by BEE Books. We thank all the other artists, designers and publishers who honoured us by submitting their highly creative work.”

The final winner was chosen, following an intensive discussion by the distinguished jury, from a shortlist of seven covers. The jury for the 6th edition of the prize includes Indian politician, Writer and Member of Parliament, **Dr. Shashi Tharoor**, Author, Indian columnist and novelist, **Shobhaa De**, well known author, Kunal Basu, Author, Publisher and Festival Director, **Namita Gokhale**, Director, Apeejay Surrendra Group and the creative force behind the Oxford Bookstore chain, **Priti Paul**.

The Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize appreciates the balance of graphics and narrative, particularly in our increasingly visual age, and believes that a book cover interprets and decodes the ensuing text in crucial ways that contribute to its ultimate success. The Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize is a first of its kind award for brilliance in book design, an attempt by the iconic bookstore to recognize and encourage the extraordinary work of illustrators, designers and publishers across India. Under the guidance of Priti Paul, Director, Apeejay Surrendra Group, Oxford Bookstores has been pushing all limits to empower the distributing business and praise the matter of books. Winning cover design is a basic piece of the achievement of a book and artists assume a key part in helping a book wind up plainly significant and make review.

About the Winner

Ahlawat Gunjan has a master’s degree in graphic design from The Glasgow School of Art, UK. Previous to that he spent a semester at Indiana-Purdue University, USA, focusing on design thinking, innovation and leadership. He is a graduate of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad. Trained at Lars Mullers Switzerland and Faber & Faber, UK, Ahlawat has a varied and interesting work experience. He has worked closely on different design assignments with Penguin, Faber and Faber, Hachette, Little Brown, Hodder, HarperCollins, Harper Perennial, Random House, Quercus, Hurst and Knopf US. His overlapping interests in art and literature not only made him pursue a career in publishing but also informed his keen interest in visual authorial interventions and curatorship. This allows him to shape the visual personality of the book at every

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step of its creation. He strongly believes in the art of making and therefore constructs most of the images for his book covers.

He heads the Design department at Penguin Random House, India, during the day and spends time painting in the evenings and over the weekends.

About Jaipur BookMark

Jaipur BookMark (JBM) is traditionally held parallel to the Jaipur Literature Festival every year. It is a distinctive B2B platform and brings together publishers, literary agents, translation agencies and writers wanting to talk about the business of books, along with focused sessions and major industry players from across the world. For its 8th edition, JBM is presenting an impactful online programme being held from 22nd to 25th February 2021 and as always brings together all stakeholders of the business of books over meaningful discussions and far-reaching resolutions exploring varied topics which deal with the publishing industry.

For more information, please contact

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