



THE PROVERSE PRIZE
FOR UNPUBLISHED FICTION, NON-FICTION, OR POETRY
SUBMITTED IN ENGLISH (MAY BE A TRANSLATION)

RESULTS OF THE 2018 COMPETITION
ANNOUNCEMENT MADE ON 25 April 2019

As in previous years, in 2018 entries of a high standard were received from around the world. This year there are THREE Finalists. Of these, one or two will be chosen as Winner or Winners of the Proverse Prize and one or two may be awarded a Supplementary Prize. The announcement of Proverse Prize 2018 winners and the launch of at least some of the winning books will take place at the Proverse Autumn Reception, Thursday, 21 November 2019. Please make a note in your diaries!

The following finalists were announced at the Proverse Spring Reception, 2019.
DJ Hamilton, Dr Sheng-Wei Wang, Peter Humphreys

Congratulations to all!

A BRIEF HISTORY TO DATE

The establishment of the competition was announced in 2008 at The Proverse Prize Dinner, held in Hong Kong, and the first competition took place in 2009. As of April 2018, seven women and seven men have won or shared the Prize. They are:

Rebecca Tomasis, Laura Solomon, Gillian Jones, David Diskin, Peter Gregoire,
Sophronia Liu, Birgit Linder, James McCarthy, Philip Chatting, Celia Classe, Lawrence
Gray, Gustav Preller, Ivy Ngeow, Feng Chi-chun.

Their work includes 8 novels, one young adult novella, one biography, one family memoirs, one poetry collection, one short-story collection, and a collection of poetry and essays.

Considering separately the entries that became finalists, and excluding those that finally became winners of the Proverse Prize, totally about 29 of these works from 2009 to 2018 inclusive have been published by Proverse Hong Kong. The thirteen men and eleven women (some of them are repeat entrants, which have been counted once only) are:

Victor E. Apps, Rupert Kwan Yun Chan, Sally Dellow, Wayne Furlong, Patricia Glington-Meicholas, Lawrence Gray, Patricia W. Grey, Andrew S. Guthrie, Emily Ho, Carolina Ilica, L.W. Illsley, Jupy James, Akin Jeje, Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming, Sergio Monteiro, James Norcliffe, Jan Pearson (3 times), Jason S Polley, Damon Rose, Hayley Ann Solomon (twice), Laura Solomon (three times), Shahilla Shariff, James Tam, Dennis Wong.

Their work includes one detective fiction (by Dennis Wong), ten novels (Lawrence Gray, Patricia W. Grey, Sergio Monteiro, Jan Pearson (3 times), Damon Rose, Laura Solomon (twice), James Tam), two young adult novellas (by Victor D. Apps and Laura Solomon), two autobiographies (by Rupert Kwan Yun Chan and Wayne Furlong), one memoir (Emily Ho), ten poetry collections (Sally Dellow, Patricia Glington-Meicholas, Andrew S. Guthrie, Carolina Ilica, Akin Jeje, Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming, James Norcliffe, Jason S Polley, Hayley Ann Solomon, Shahilla Shariff), two short story collections (by Lawrence Gray and Hayley Ann Solomon), a young adult epic (by L.W. Illsley), and an illustrated book for very young children (by Jupy James),

The ratio of all published entries which have been in prose, versus those which have been works of poetry, is slightly more than two point six to one (31 to 11.5).

Most of the published entries have been addressed to adult readers, but four are books for children or young adults.

Most of the entries published, including Proverse Prize winners and Supplementary Prize winners have obtained very favourable advance notices as well as post-publication notices in the media and/or online. To see some of these comments, please simply google the author's name.

One, Peter Gregoire's *Article 109*, became a Hong Kong best seller. Another, a biography of Sir George Macartney, "The Diplomat of Kashgar: A Very Special Agent", sells steadily, partly because of the subject-matter, but particularly because of the well-accepted speaking engagements of the author, James McCarthy.

WHO HAVE THE ENTRANTS BEEN?

The youngest at the time they signed the entry form has been 24 and the oldest, 91.

Over time and on average, as shown above, about half have been women and about half have been men; but in individual years there has sometimes been a considerable imbalance between the genders.

Entrants up to now have described themselves as: poets, writers, artists and musicians, businessmen, professionals (such as accountants, chiropractors, economists, librarians, a clinic nurse, ministers of religion, a real estate developer), teachers (including school-teachers, tutors and university professors, yoga-teacher, life-coach and photographer), students (including undergraduate and Phd students), editors, translators and researchers, journalists, screenwriters, and TV media writers, divers, housewives, military analysts, retired people (including pathologists, professors, botanists, geologists, nature conservationists, registered nurses, solicitors) and a Mrs Hong Kong World.

Some entrants have previously been published, others not. Some have won writing prizes before, some have not. For some, this is the first prize for which they have ever entered.

The fourteen as of April 2019 now-published Proverse Prize winning entries from 2009-2017 inclusive include works by those born in the Peoples' Republic of China, England, Germany, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland, the United Arab Emirates, and South Africa.

For six of these fourteen writers, English is not their mother-tongue.

As for those who have won supplementary prizes, they include those born in Australia, the Bahamas, Canada, Hong Kong, Kenya, New Zealand, Romania, Singapore, South Africa, the Bahamas, the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago, the USA.

TRANSLATIONS INTO ENGLISH

The point is emphasised that, although entries should be SUBMITTED IN ENGLISH, translations into English have always been welcome. Up to 2015 inclusive, only translations into English of work not yet published in any language were eligible. From 2016 onwards, unpublished **first** translations into English of works already published in their original language have also been eligible to enter.

PRACTICAL DETAILS

The practical details for the receipt of Entry forms and fees as well as entered work are subject to ongoing revision in the light of experience. The full details & entry form for the 2019 competition are now on the website: www.proversepublishing.com and the entry period will run until 30 June. You can also use the Proverse submissions manager to enter; <https://proversehongkong.submittable.com/submit>.

If you are interested in entering, please check the Proverse website www.proversepublishing.com from time to time, or request a subscription to the free Proverse E-Newsletter, published every 4-6 weeks, by emailing the following address: info@proversepublishing.com.

Feel free to send the information on to any you know who may be interested.~~~

WINNERS OF THE PROVERSE PRIZE TO DATE

- Rebecca Tomasis, for her novel, “Mishpacha – Family”
Laura Solomon, for her young adult novella, “Instant Messages”
Gillian Jones, for her novel, “A Misted Mirror”
David Diskin, for his novel, “The Village in the Mountains”
Peter Gregoire, for his novel, “Article 109”
Sophronia Liu, for her collection of sketches, “A Shimmering Sea”
Birgit Linder, for her illustrated poetry collection, “Shadows in Deferment”
James McCarthy, for his biography, “The Diplomat of Kashgar”
Philip Chatting, for “The Snow Bridge and Other Stories”
Celia Claase, for her essay and poetry collection, “The Layers Between”
Lawrence Gray, for his novel, “Adam’s Franchise”
Gustav Preller, for his novel, “Curveball: Life never comes at you straight”
Ivy Ngeow, for her novel, “Cry of the Flying Rhino”
Chi-shun Feng, for his novel, “Three Wishes in Bardo”.

WINNERS OF SUPPLEMENTARY PRIZES TO DATE

- Victor E. Apps, for his young adult novella, “The Perilous Passage of Princess Petunia Peasant”
Rupert Kwan Yun Chan, for his autobiography, “Chocolate’s Brown Study in the Bag”
Sally Dellow, for her poetry collection, “Wonder, Lust & Itchy Feet”
Wayne Furlong, for his memoirs, “Buddha is a Punk Skater”
Patricia Glinton-Meicholas, for her poetry collection, “Chasing Light”
Lawrence Gray, for his collection of short stories, “Odds and Sods”
Patricia W. Grey, for her novel, “Death has a Thousand Doors”
Emily Ho, for her “Memoirs of an Ice-Cream Lady”
Henrik Hoeg, for his poetry collection, “Irreverent Poems for Pretentious People”
Carolina Ilica, for her poetry collection, “Violet” (translation from Romanian)
L.W. Illsley, for his young adult epic poem, “Astra and Sebastian”
Akin Jeje, for “Smoked Pearl: Poems of Hong Kong and Beyond”
Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming, for “Immortelle and Bhandaraa Poems”
Sergio Monteiro, for his novel, “Enoch’s Muse”
James Norcliffe, for his poetry collection, “Shadow Play”
Jan Pearson, for her novel, “Red Bird Summer”
Jan Pearson, for her novel, “Tiger Autumn”
Jan Pearson, for her novel, “Black Tortoise Winter”
Jason S Polley, for his poetry collection, “refrain”
Jason S Polley, for “cemetery miss you”
Damon Rose, for his novel, “The Handover Murders”
Shahilla Shariff, for her poetry collection, “Life-Lines”
Hayley Ann Solomon, for her poetry collection, “Celestial Promise”
Hayley Ann Solomon, for, “Under the shade of the Feijoa Trees and other stories”
Laura Solomon, for her young adult novella, “University Days”
Laura Solomon, for her novel, “Hilary and David”
James Tam, for his novel, “Man’s Last Song”
Dennis Wong, for his novel, “Revenge From Beyond”