

THE PROVERSE PRIZE
FOR UNPUBLISHED
FICTION, NON-FICTION, OR POETRY

RESULTS OF THE 2017 COMPETITION
ANNOUNCEMENT MADE ON 18 April 2018

As in previous years, in 2017 entries of a high standard were received from around the world. This year there are SEVEN Finalists. Of these, one or two will be chosen as Winner or Winners of the Proverse Prize and some may be awarded a Supplementary Prize. The announcement of Proverse Prize 2017 winners and the launch of at least some of the winning books will take place at the Proverse Autumn Reception, 15 November 2018. Please make a note in your diaries!

The following finalists were announced at the Proverse Spring Reception, 2018.
C P Byron (France); Chi Shun Feng (Hong Kong); Wayne Desmond Furlong (Indonesia);
Carolina Ilica (Romania); Sergio Monteiro (Hong Kong); Damon Rose (Spain);
Hayley Ann Solomon (New Zealand).

Congratulations to all!

A BRIEF HISTORY TO DATE

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 January 2018, seven women and six 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.

Their work includes novels, a young adult novella, biography, memoirs, a poetry collection, a 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 26 works from 2009 to 2017 have been published by Proverse Hong Kong. The ten men and ten women (including repeat entrants) are:

Victor E. Apps, Rupert Kwan Yun Chan, Sally Dellow, Patricia Glington-Meicholas,
Lawrence Gray, Patricia W. Grey, Andrew S. Guthrie, Emily Ho, L.W. Illsley,
Jupy James, Akin Jeje, Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming, James Norcliffe, Jan Pearson,
Jason S Polley, Hayley Ann Solomon, Laura Solomon, Shahilla Shariff, James Tam,
Dennis Wong.

Their work includes detective fiction, novels, young adult novellas, an auto-biography, memoirs, a group of family sketches, poetry collections, a short story collection, a young adult epic, and an illustrated book for very young children,

The ratio of all published entries which have been in prose, versus those which have been works of poetry, is about two to one.

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.

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.

To see some of these comments, please simply google the author's name.

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, 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, librarians, a clinic nurse, ministers of religion), 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).

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 thirteen as of January 2018 now-published Proverse Prize winning entries from 2009-2016 inclusive include works by those born in England, Germany, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland, the United Arab Emirates, and South Africa. The books include a memoir, a biography, a young adult novella, a poetry collection, a short story collection, a collection of essays and poetry, and six novels.

For five of the thirteen 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, Singapore, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Trinidad and Tobago,

TRANSLATIONS INTO ENGLISH

The point is emphasised that, although entries should be SUBMITTED IN ENGLISH, translations into English have always been encouraged. 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 2018 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>. ~~~