

THE PROVERSE PRIZE
FOR UNPUBLISHED
FICTION, NON-FICTION, OR POETRY
16 November 2017

SEMI-FINALISTS 2017 ANNOUNCED, 16 NOVEMBER 2017

C P Byron (Paul Byron Campbell), 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!

The finalists will be announced at the Proverse Spring Reception, 2018.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PROVERSE PRIZE TO DATE

The inauguration of this competition was announced in 2008 at The Proverse Prize Dinner, held in Hong Kong, and the first competition took place in 2009. As of the evening of 16 November 2017, seven women and six men have won or shared the Prize. They are:

Rebecca Tomasis and Laura Solomon, Gillian Jones, David Diskin and Peter Gregoire, Sophronia Liu and Birgit Linder, James McCarthy, Philip Chatting and Celia Classe, Lawrence Gray and 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 2016 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 Ginton-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, a 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 the evening of 16 November 2017) 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.

TRANSLATIONS INTO ENGLISH

The point is emphasised that, although entries should be SUBMITTED IN ENGLISH, translations into English have always been warmly encouraged. Up to 2015 inclusive, only translations into English of work not yet published in any language were eligible. In 2016, unpublished **first** translations into English of works already published in their original language were also be 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 will be on the website: www.proversepublishing.com from a least about 14 April 2018 and the entry period will run from at least 14 April to 30 June. In the meantime, the 2017 details and entry form are still on the website, for guidance. 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>.~~~