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PRESS RELEASE

Announcement of the Winners of the Proverse Prize 2022 and the Proverse Poetry Prize 2023; Semi-finalists for the Proverse Prize 2023.

The Proverse Hong Kong Autumn Reception 2023, supported by Hong Kong Arts Development Council and assisted by several volunteers and student helpers, took place at the Helena May in central Hong Kong on Tuesday, 21 November. This Literary and Literary Award event was well attended by luminaries of the Hong Kong and Macau academic, broadcasting, cultural, diplomatic, ecclesiastic, educational, language, publishing, and writing scenes, including loyal friends and writers and people whom the organizers confidently hope to see again at the next Proverse event, the Proverse Spring Reception 2024. Some were present from overseas: Australia, UK, USA.

The programme consisted of a mixture of mainly live and some videoed interventions.

At a similar time as the venue event, to share the results to a worldwide audience, a prerecorded playlist of the main expected contents was released on the Proverse youtube channel: [youtube.com/@ProversePublishing](https://www.youtube.com/@ProversePublishing) (where it remains): direct link: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLPHfT5TYFAreRvan5wdXBbgy1tfSZ4k08>

The event was hosted live by Dr Gillian Bickley, Proverse Managing Editor and Co-Founder with her husband, Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, of the international Proverse Prizes.

All results were announced by pre-recorded video by Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, Co-Founder, with his wife, Dr Gillian Bickley, of the Proverse Prizes.

Mr Patrick Orchard, Consul, Australian Consulate-General Hong Kong, spoke to congratulate the founders of the international Proverse Prizes, Dr Gillian Bickley and Dr Verner Bickley, the organizers, all winners, and particularly Australian poet, Ms Tegan Smythe, winner of a Proverse Publication Prize 2022. He also spoke about the previous, current, and hoped-for future successful participation of Australian writers and poets in general in the annual international Proverse Prizes for writing submitted in English and previously unpublished in English (may be in translation).

The international PROVERSE POETRY PRIZE (2023 is the eighth year of competition) is for poems of any genre or style, generally no more than 30 lines long. Entrants may choose their own topic, or they may choose the annual “set” topic. These “set” topics may be interpreted in any way each entrant likes.

The results of the 2023 Proverse Poetry Prize are:

First Prize: Gary Beaumier, USA.

Second Prize: Michael Witts, Australia.

Third Prizes:

Anna Quercia-Thomas, USA and Australia.

Lynda Lambert, USA.

Konstandinos (Dino) Mahoney, UK and Greece.

Rena Ong, Singapore and UK.

Specially Mentioned for a Group of Poems

Neil Douglas, UK;

José Manuel Sevilla. Catalonia and HK;

George Watt, Australia.

Several other entered poets were awarded one or more places in the International Proverse Poetry Prize Anthology 2023, “Mingled Voices 8”, to be launched at the Proverse Spring Reception 2024, in April.

The names of all those who have won places in the Anthology will be posted soon, whether in the next Proverse Hong Kong newsletter, on social media or on the Proverse website.

The international PROVERSE PRIZE (2023 is the 15th year of competition) is awarded for unpublished work. On average, it takes a year or more for publishers and author to edit and prepare a winning work for publication. As a result, publication may take place a year or eighteen months after entry for the Prize.

For the International Proverse Prize 2022, two writers were awarded as winners of the International Proverse Prize 2022. Each received the prize of publication and they share the cash prize. The results as announced by Dr Verner Bickley are:

Winners of the Proverse Prize 2022

Irene Vinyard Bennett for her novel, “Battle of the Artisans: Making the Bells of Marquis Yi”

and

Flora Chan for her novel, “South of the Yangtze”.

Winner of a Proverse Publication Prize 2022 for her collection of poetry, “Mountain Songs”:

Tegan Smythe.

The three books—“Battle of the Artisans: Making the Bells of Marquis Yi” by Irene Vinyard Bennett, “South of the Yangtze” by Flora Quan, “Mountain Songs” by Tegan Smyth—**were launched at the Proverse Autumn Reception 2023.**

Semi-finalists for the Proverse Prize 2023

Dr Verner Bickley also announced (in alphabetical order of surname) the semi-finalists for the Proverse Prize 2023

Liam Blackford (Australia and Hong Kong)

Gavin Bourke (Ireland)

Matthew Wong Foreman (Hong Kong and the USA)

Stewart McKay (Hong Kong)

Michael Witts (Australia)

Pang Sern Yong (Malaysia)

It is noted that other entries might be considered for supplementary (publication) prizes but these would not be announced until publication.

Additionally, among the semi-finalists, whose names were announced, one or more of those who do not advance to become the one or maximum two winners of the Proverse Prize may also be awarded supplementary prizes, again as announced at the time of publication.

All three winners of the Proverse Prize 2022 were present at the Proverse Autumn Reception 2023. Among them, Irene Vinyard Bennett had travelled from the USA, together with her husband and daughter, supported also by her friend from London, UK.

Each of the winners introduced their book and gave a brief reading from it.

The books are already available as follows and their details can be seen at these links:

Battle of the Artisans: Making the Bells of Marquis Yi (paperback):

<https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/Proversehk/BattleoftheArtisans>

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/9888833472>

Mountain Songs (paperback):

https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/Proversehk?product_id=4684

South of the Yangtze (paperback):

<https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/Proversehk/SouthoftheYangtze>

<https://www.amazon.com/dp/9888833456>

To see most available Proverse titles, please visit and scroll through the following page --

<https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/ProverseHK>

The organizers and Proverse Hong Kong thank all for their support and attendance.

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