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## PRESS RELEASE

**Announcement of the Winners of the Proverse Prize 2023 and the Proverse Poetry Prize 2024. Launch of 5 books:** *The Ballad of Billy Lopez* by Stewart McKay; *Sunset at Lion Rock* by Matthew Wong Foreman, *Some Dualities* by Michael Witts, *The Water Garden* by Vernon L. Anley, *The Grammar of Self* by George Watt.

The Proverse Hong Kong Autumn Reception 2024, 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 Thursday, 21 November. This Literary and Literary Award event was graced by the presence of Ms Susannah (Susie) Morley, Director of the British Council, Hong Kong and well attended by luminaries from Hong Kong and Macau, including loyal friends and writers and people whom the organizers confidently hope to see again at the next Proverse event, the Proverse Spring Reception 2025. Some were present from overseas, notably Australia and the USA.

The programme included talks by three writers present and videoed interventions by those unable to attend.

At a similar time as the venue event, to share the results to a worldwide audience, a prerecorded playlist of the main programmed contents was released on the Proverse youtube channel: [youtube.com/@ProversePublishing](https://youtube.com/@ProversePublishing) (where it remains).

The event was hosted live by Broadcast Journalist and Filmmaker Ms Sadie Kaye, stepping in at short notice for Dr Gillian Bickley, Proverse Managing Editor and Co-Founder with her husband, Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, of the international Proverse Prizes.

**The international PROVERSE POETRY PRIZE** (2024 is the ninth 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 2024 Proverse Poetry Prize are:

**First Prize**

Zuo Fei (PRC). ‘The Poet’s Lover’

**Second Prize**

Vanessa Page (Australia). ‘The Take’

**Third Prizes**

Vinita Agrawal (INDIA). ‘Wounded Gravel’

Gary Beaumier (USA). ‘Once The Moon in Full’

Candice Deleveaux-Turnquest (The Bahamas and now Hong Kong). ‘Love in Loss’

Terry Miller (UK). ‘We Together’

**Specially Mentioned for a Group of Poems**

Maria Elena Blanco (Chile and Austria)

Daniel Thomas Moran (USA)

Kewayne Wadley (USA)

Joanna Radwańska-Williams (Poland, UK, USA, Macau)

Several other entered poets were awarded one or more places in the International Proverse Poetry Prize Anthology 2024, “Mingled Voices 9”, to be launched at the Proverse Spring Reception 2025, 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** (2024 is the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 2023, two writers were awarded as winners of the International Proverse Prize 2023. Each received the prize of publication and they share the cash prize.

**Winners of the Proverse Prize 2023**

Matthew Wong Foreman for, “Sunset at Lion Rock”

and

Michael Witts for, “Some Dualities”.

**Winner of a Proverse Publication Prize 2023**

Stewart McKay for his novella, “The Ballad of Billy Lopez”.

**All three books**—Matthew Wong Foreman’s “Sunset at Lion Rock”, Michael Witts’ “Some Dualities” and Stewart McKay’s “The Ballad of Billy Lopez”—**were launched at the Proverse Autumn Reception 2024.**

Winners of a publication grant as one of the two best Hong Kong entries (this is the first occasion this award has been made, supported by Hong Kong Arts Development Council).

Matthew Wong Foreman for, “Sunset at Lion Rock”

and

Stewart McKay for “The Ballad of Billy Lopez”

In addition to Stewart McKay’s 2023 Proverse Publication Prize, Proverse Hong Kong expects to launch and award early in 2025 one or more additional Winners of a 2023 Proverse Publication Prize.

### **The Proverse Prize 2024**

It is hoped to announce interim results at the Proverse Spring Reception 2025.

**It is noted** that other entries might be considered for supplementary (publication) prizes in the 2023 edition of the Proverse Prize, but these would not be announced until publication.

All three announced winners in the Proverse Prize 2023 were present at the Proverse Autumn Reception 2024 and introduced their book. Among them, Michael Witts had travelled from Australia.

The books are already available and their details can be seen at the Proverse page on the Chinese University of Hong Kong Press website, <https://cup.cuhk.edu.hk/ProverseHK>

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

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