



Proverse Hong Kong

PROVERSE PRIZE (BOOK-LENGTH WORK) SEMI-FINALIST RESULTS 2019

John Asome (Australia)
Nicholas Binge (Hong Kong)
J.P. Linstroth (USA)
Jack Mayer (USA)
Rony Nair (India, UAE, England)
Jan Pearson (Australia)

The above results were announced by Dr Verner Bickley, MBE, Proverse Prizes Co-Founder, at the Proverse Autumn Reception, held in Hong Kong on 21 November 2019.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SEMI-FINALISTS!

It is expected that the finalists will be announced at latest by 21 April 2020 at the Proverse Spring Reception, to be held in Central Hong Kong. Publication of winning and supplementary prize works will begin at earliest on 21 April 2020 and conclude probably no later than November 2020.

THE PROVERSE PRIZE FOR UNPUBLISHED FICTION, NON-FICTION, OR POETRY March 2020

A BRIEF HISTORY TO DATE

The inauguration of The Proverse Prize for unpublished fiction, non-fiction, or poetry took place in 2008 at The Proverse Prize Dinner, held in Hong Kong, and the first competition took place in 2009. The prize includes publication and a cash prize of HKD10,000.00 (HKD7.8 = approx. USD1.00) (which may be shared by at most two entries).

The rationale for the creation of the prize was to provide a competition that anyone in the world (over 18 years old) could enter, irrespective of nationality, residence, citizenship or place of birth. In 2008, it seemed that there was no such prize in the world. (At least one other has come into existence subsequently.)

As of February 2020, 15 writers have won or shared the Prize – seven women and eight men. 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-shun, D.J. Hamilton.

The winning works are as listed over:

WINNERS OF THE PROVERSE PRIZE, 2009-

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

As you will see from the above, the work includes:

Eight novels:

“Mishpacha – Family”;
“A Misted Mirror”;
“The Village in the Mountains”;
“Article 109”;
“Adam’s Franchise”;
“Curveball: Life never comes at you straight”;
“Cry of the Flying Rhino”;
“Three Wishes in Bardo”.

One young adult novella: “Instant Messages”.

One biography: “The Diplomat of Kashgar”.

One memoir: “A Shimmering Sea”.

Two poetry collections:

“Shadows in Deferment”;
“The Hummingbird Sometimes Flies Backwards”.

One short-story collection: “The Snow Bridge and Other Stories”.

One collection of poetry and essays: “The Layers Between”.

FINALISTS EXCLUDING WINNERS OF THE PROVERSE PRIZE, 2009-

Considering separately the entries that became finalists, and excluding those that finally became winners of the Proverse Prize, totally about 32 works from 2009 to 22 November 2019 inclusive have been published by Proverse Hong Kong, following entry for the Proverse Prize. The 27 entrants -- fifteen men and twelve women (including repeat entrants) are:

Victor E. Apps, Rupert Kwan Yun Chan, Sally Dellow, Wayne Furlong, Patricia Ginton-Meicholas, Lawrence Gray x 2, Patricia W. Grey, Andrew S. Guthrie, Emily Ho, Henrik Hoeg, Peter Humphreys, Carolina Ilica, L.W. Illsley, Jupy James, Akin Jeje, Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming, Sergio Monteiro, James Norcliffe, Jan Pearson x 3, Jason S Polley x 2, Damon Rose, Shahilla Shariff, Hayley Ann Solomon x 2, Laura Solomon x 2, James Tam, Dennis Wong, Sheng-Wei Wang.

WINNERS OF PROVERSE PRIZE SUPPLEMENTARY PRIZES, 2009-

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

As you will see from the above, the work awarded supplementary prizes includes:

Ten novels (including detective fiction and crime novels):

Patricia W. Grey, "Death has a Thousand Doors";
Peter Humphreys, "Hong Kong Rocks";
Sergio Monteiro, "Enoch's Muse";
Jan Pearson, "Red Bird Summer"; "Tiger Autumn"; "Black Tortoise Winter";
Damon Rose, "The Handover Murders";
Laura Solomon, "Hilary and David";
James Tam, "Man's Last Song";
Dennis Wong, "Revenge From Beyond".

One young adult novella: Laura Solomon, "University Days".

One young adult fiction: Victor E. Apps, "The Perilous Passage of Princess Petunia Peasant".

Four memoirs:

Rupert Kwan Yun Chan, "Chocolate's Brown Study in the Bag";
Wayne Furlong, "Buddha is a Punk Skater";
Emily Ho, "Memoirs of an Ice-Cream Lady";
Jason S Polley, "cemetery miss you".

Ten poetry collections:

Sally Dellow, “Wonder, Lust & Itchy Feet”;
Patricia Ginton-Meicholas, “Chasing Light”;
Henrik Hoeg, “Irreverent Poems for Pretentious People”;
Carolina Ilica, “Violet” (translation from Romanian);
Akin Jeje, “Smoked Pearl: Poems of Hong Kong and Beyond”;
Lelawattee Manoo-Rahming, “Immortelle and Bhandaraa Poems”;
James Norcliffe, “Shadow Play”;
Jason S Polley, “refrain”;
Shahilla Shariff, “Life-Lines”;
Hayley Ann Solomon, “Celestial Promise”.

Two short story collections:

Lawrence Gray, “Odds and Sods”;
Hayley Ann Solomon, “Under the shade of the Feijoa Trees and other stories”.

One young adult epic: L.W. Illsley, “Astra and Sebastian”.

One illustrated book for very young children: Jupy James, “Hazel Brown: A Very Special Vet”.

ADDITIONAL FINALISTS PUBLISHED, 2009-

Lawrence Gray, novel, “Cop Show Heaven”.

Sheng-Wei Wang, alternative history, “The Last Journey of the San Bao Eunuch, Admiral Zheng He”.

PROSE OR POETRY?

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

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

ADVANCE NOTICES RECEIVED

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. Jan Pearson’s *Tiger Autumn* was described as, “one of the best Hong Kong novels for years”.

To see more comments, please simply google the author’s name and/or the book title.

WHO HAVE THE ENTRANTS BEEN?

So far, the youngest at the time s/he 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, architects, chiropractors, librarians, a clinic nurse, ministers of religion), teachers (including music-teachers, school-teachers, tutors and university professors, a yoga-

teacher, life-coach and photographer), students (including secondary school, 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 fifteen as of 22 November 2019 now-published Proverse Prize winning entries from 2009-2018 inclusive include works by those born in England, Germany, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, and the USA.

For six of the fifteen writers, English is not their mother-tongue.

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

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. In 2016 and continuing, unpublished **first** translations into English of works already published in their original language are also eligible to enter, provided the author retains the appropriate copyright.

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 2020 competition are already available on the website: www.proversepublishing.com and the entry period will run from at least 7 May to 30 June. 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>.

