

Winners of The International Book & Pamphlet Competition

All winning collections are available to purchase from the shop on our website.

The 2018/19 International Book & Pamphlet Competition
Judged by Neil Astley, Michael Schmidt & Amy Wack

S K Kim – *Notes from the North*

These poems are urgent bulletins from an emergency, they are horrific, powerful, astute, full of passion and moral authority. Although we've heard about the brutal dictatorship of North Korea before, these poems surpass journalism and bring us the voices on the brink: the survivor, the personal witness. We follow a cleaner in the Imperial Palace, forced to clean up the unspeakable debris of the dictator's pleasure-party, we are with the starving as they are compelled to endure government propaganda urging them to eat 'two meals a day' when they have been reduced to eating insects and tree-bark to stay alive. These aren't easy poems to read, yet they have the compelling urgency of a diary of contemporary tyranny and the havoc it wreaks on this particular family. This is a scorched family album, rescued from the ruins. – Amy Wack

Hilary Menos – *Human Tissue*

There is a genuine pressure of content in the best of these skillfully managed and imaginatively engaged poems. The evidently real life story as it unfolds is quietly told and affecting. We all found it easy to agree that this was an outstanding collection, because of its material, but also because of its openness and artistry. It is a worthy winner and one that many people will engage with and appreciate. – from all the competition judges

Nick On – *Zhou*

I liked my chosen poet because he seemed able to use the short line as a line with real skill. The fact that the subject-matter was engaging and that there was humour in the atmosphere his poems breathed was also heartening. But mainly it was his sense of the line and the forms he coaxed out of his material with it that attracted me. – Michael Schmidt

Emma Simon – *The Odds*

*These are poems by a versatile poet, drawing on a wide range of subject-matter and making use of an impressively handled variety of forms, including her own energetically updated version of Anglo-Saxon stress metre. Throughout the collection her working of the line is impressively tuned to what she evokes, from one poem's staccato measure tracing the thoughts racing through the mind of a disbelieved Harvey Weinstein victim to another enacting the hopping and sliding of a frog, from couplet to couplet. These two examples show something of the breadth of range in *The Odds*: in between we meet a latter-day Lady Macbeth, visit a poisonous laboratory (a tour de force, this one), walk on water, break down on the motorway, and find ourselves descending through space as earth-bound astronauts. All in all, a collection celebrating what MacNeice called 'the drunkenness of things being various' – and with style and panache. – Neil Astley*

The 2017/18 International Book & Pamphlet Competition
Judged by Liz Berry & David Constantine

Rebecca Cullen – *Majid Sits in a Tree and Sings*
Ann Gray – *I Wish I Had More Mothers*
Christopher North – *The Topiary of Passchendaele*
Madeleine Wurzbarger – *Sleeve Catching Fire at Dawn*

The 2016/17 International Book & Pamphlet Competition
Judged by Ian Duhig & Mimi Khalvati

Josephine Abbott – *The Infinite Knot*
Katy Evans-Bush – *Broken Cities*
Ruth McIlroy – *Guppy Primer*
Lesley Saunders – *Angels on Horseback*

The 2015/16 Poetry Business Book & Pamphlet Competition
Judged by Billy Collins

Stephanie Conn – *Copeland's Daughter*
John Foggin – *Much Possessed*
John Eppel – *Landlocked*
Mary King – *Homing*

The 2014/15 Poetry Business Book & Pamphlet Competition
Judged by Billy Collins

Basil du Toit – *Old*
Paul Stephenson – *Those People*
David Tait – *Three Dragon Day*
Luke Samuel Yates – *The Flemish Primitives*

The 2013/14 Poetry Business Book & Pamphlet Competition
Judged by Carol Ann Duffy

Holly Hopkins – *Soon Every House Will Have One*
Ben Wilkinson – *For Real*
James Caruth – *The Death of Narrative*
Rebecca Farmer – *Not Really*

2012/13 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Simon Armitage

Emma Danes – Dress of Shadows
David Attwooll – Surfacing
Kim Lasky – Petrol, Cyan, Electric
David Grubb – Ways of Looking

2011/12 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Carol Ann Duffy

Rosie Shepperd – That So-Easy Thing
Suzannah Evans – Confusion Species
Julie Mellor – Breathing Through Our Bones
Kim Moore – If We Could Speak Like Wolves

2010/11 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Simon Armitage

Paul Bentley – Largo
Christy Ducker – Armour
Maitreyabandhu – The Bond
David Tait – Love's Loose Ends

2009/10 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Andrew Motion

Nina Boyd – Dear Mr Asquith
Sue Boyle – Too Late for the Love Hotel
Alan Payne – Exploring the Orinoco
Jane Aspinall – American Shadow

2008/09 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Michael Longley

Michael McCarthy – At the Races
Sally Goldsmith – Singer
Anna Woodford – Party Piece
Carole Bromley – Skylight

2007/08 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Alison Brackenbury

Julia Deakin – The Half-mile High Club
Yvonne Green – Boukhara
Padraig O'Morain – You've Been Great

Ann Pilling – Growing Pains

2006/07 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Vicki Feaver

Allison McVety – The Night Trotsky Came to Stay
Andrea Holland – Borrowed
Judith Lal – Flageolets at the Bazaar
Patrick McGuinness – 19th Century Blues

2005/06 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Simon Armitage

Padraig Rooney – The Escape Artist
Paul Batchelor – To Photograph a Snow Crystal
Ed Reiss – Now Then
Pam Thompson – Show Date and Time

2004/05 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Gerard Benson

Patricia Debney – How to Be a Dragonfly
Carole Bromley – Unscheduled Halt
Hugh McMillan – After the Storm
Hilary Menos – Extra Maths
Pascale Petit – The Wounded Deer

2003/04 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by Gillian Clarke

Mike Barlow – Living on the Difference
Tim Dooley – Tenderness
Stephen Duncan – Ghost-Walking
Sam Gardiner – The Picture Never Taken
Kathryn Simmonds – Snug

2002/03 Book & Pamphlet Competition Winners
Judged by David Constantine

Daljit Nagra – Oh My Rub!
Tim Liardet – The Uses of Pepper
Chris Jones – Hard on the Knuckle