

New Poets Prize winners

The 2018/19 New Poets Prize  
Judged by Mary Jean Chan

***Abbie Neale – Threadbare***

**This is a powerful collection that trains a keen eye on the realities of toxic masculinity, misogyny and sexual violence. Neale approaches her subject through a combination of confessional, documentary and surrealist modes: "When I fell, the trees and houses were geometric shapes / and I didn't hit the ground, I tore through it." – Mary Jean Chan**

***Ben Ray – The Kindness of the Eel***

***This is a wonderfully eclectic collection that draws its inspiration from sources at once historical and contemporary. Dramatic monologues, knee plays and intertextual responses to other poets are juxtaposed with lyric poems that constantly surprise and delight like "a surreal fruit". – Mary Jean Chan***

***Callan Waldron-Hall – Learning to be Very Soft***

***This is a collection suffused with vivid imagery, with various forms of water ("the pool", "the floods", "the river" and "the sea") occurring throughout the text. I admired Waldron-Hall's ability to hone in on the complexity of relationships through verse at once startling and tender. – Mary Jean Chan***

***Jay G Ying – Scheherazade***

**Taking its cue from Scheherazade, the storyteller in *One Thousand and One Nights*, this collection is one to be savoured repeatedly. Apart from its formal experimentation, its lyric epiphanies are also a delight: "where every / near thing seemed one lost island away, as unplaceable / as an accent, as unmoored as the passing season." – Mary Jean Chan**

The 2017/18 New Poets Prize  
Judged by Kayo Chingonyi

***Joe Carrick-Varty – Somewhere Far***  
***Tristram Fane Saunders – Woodsong***  
***Emma Jeremy – Safety Behaviour***  
***Warda Yassin – Tea with Cardamom***

The 2016/17 New Poets Prize  
Judged by Andrew McMillan

***Ian Burnette – Wax***  
***Sarah Fletcher – Typhoid August***  
***Lizzi Hawkins – Osteology***

*Stefan Kielbasiewicz – Stealing Shadow*

The 2015/16 New Poets Prize  
Judged by Helen Mort

*Imogen Cassels – The Fire Manifesto*

*Jenny Danes – Gaps*

*Phoebe Stuckes – Gin and Tonic*

*Theophilus Kwek – The First Five Storms*