



2019 Cinnamon Pencil Mentoring Competition Results

Dear Writers,

We've just finished adjudicating the Cinnamon Pencil mentoring competition, which had a huge postbag with many strong manuscripts

The prose that impressed us was inventive with a strong sense of narrative and free from clichés. The poetry that stood out used precise images and took risks with language and form.

The overall winner of a year's mentoring is Louisa Dacey with her novel: *When the World Stops*. The characters were immediately vivid and distinct, the prose is fresh and uncluttered and the story captured our attention straight away. We're excited to be working with Louisa in 2020.

Awarding the two 50% bursary places was particularly difficult as we had a list of strong contenders, both prose and poetry writers. In the end we narrowed it down to two writers whose work showed innovation and huge potential:

Andrew Paul Melrose working on a collection of short stories: *That's Not What I Meant to Say*. Quirky, witty, but with lots of depth, these stories are densely layered and engaging.

Lynn Valentine working on a poetry collection: *North*. The form is open and spacious and there are beautiful, precise images in this collection.

Congratulations also to a shortlist of writers whose work stood out in this very strong field:

Francesca Anibaldi
James Baty
Cara Viola Bland
Sylvia Bluck
Dianne Bown-Wilson
Jody Cooksley
Dawn Davis
Julia Duke
Elaine Harries
Evangelene Hibbs
Clare Howdle
Claire Jenkins
Fiona Lindsay
Clayton Lister
Sofia Mason
Janet Olearski
Wendy Orr
Lindsay Reid

Sharon Richards
Caroline Roope
Penny Shutt
R J Sinclair
Dianne Stadhams
Steven Thiele
Sean-Paul Thomas Cairns
Deborah Torr
Giles Turnbull
Roger White

Thank you to everyone who entered. Every entry helps Cinnamon to keep publishing great books and there was a wealth of fine writing from many more entrants than we could shortlist. It's so encouraging to see so much good writing from committed writers. Keep writing!

Jan Fortune & Adam Craig