



CINNAMON PRESS

Poetry Pamphlet Prize 2020 Adjudication Report

Dear Writers,

Thank you to everyone who took part in the poetry pamphlet competition. This year's post bag again went up in numbers and saw an extraordinary range of entries. We had an impressive long list and whittling this down was a huge task. So we added an extra stage, moving to shortlist and finally six pamphlets that made us do a lot of rereading.

Congratulations first to everyone who made it to the longlist —

Vasiliki Albedo Liapi: Sugar and aspirin
Lizzy Barmak: The Boat Beyond Tars
Neil Beardmore: In Bed, Writing about Hokusai
George Beddow: On the Brink
Steve Boorman: From the Earth
Lesley Burt: Inside Swirling Sky
David Calcutt: Wintering
Cat Campbell: N-dimensional cartography for lovers
Leonie Charlton: Ten minutes weather away
Clair Chivers: Black
Gay Crace: Transitory
Kerry Darbishire: The Boy in the Photograph
Hélène Demetriades: No Captain at the Helm
Margaret Eddershaw: The Flickering Lamp
Marie-Louise Eyres: Occasus
Sally Festing: The White Queen's Last Stand
Bert Flitcroft: We are Such Stuff
Yvonne Govan: Door Field Light
Trish Harewood: Shooting Poplars
Mark Harrell: Island Stations
Karen Izod: Hibernating Swallow
Paul Jeffcutt: Telling the Bees
Mary Kaye: Queen of the Saloon
Tim Kiely: In Place of Faith
Liz Lefroy: Seven Days in New York City
Margaret Lloyd: Separation Songs
Phil Madden: For Waad al-Katabi
Jane McLaughlin: Ice
Erica Jane Morris – Baldderwrack
Christopher North: The Cave
David Olsen: Carnival of the Animals
Ronan Pearse: Bitterstock
Gillain Penrose – Cornish Mizzle
Angela Platt: Sculpting Language
Estill Pollock: The Solitude of Public Spaces

Kerry Priest: The Bone Staircase
 Ellie Rees: Mainly Swallows
 Matt Riker: Starfish
 Belinda Rimmer – Three Girls in a Boat
 Sue Spiers: How to Find the One
 Bonnie Thurston:
 Gwen Williams: Post-apocalyptic Glamping
 Patrick Williamson: Light with Shade
 Martin Willitts Jr.: Gratitude
 Patricia Helen Wooldridge: Being

We whittled this excellent list down to a (longer than usual) short list of poets who deserve huge congratulations for such engaging work:

Vasiliki Albedo Liapi: Sugar and aspirin
 Steve Boorman: From the Earth
 David Calcutt: Wintering
 Leonie Charlton: Ten minutes weather away
 Bert Flitcroft: We are Such Stuff
 Paul Jeffcutt: Telling the Bees
 Trish Harewood: Shooting Poplars
 Tim Kiely: In Place of Faith
 David Olsen: Carnival of the Animal
 Ronan Pearse: Bitterstock
 Estill Pollock: The Solitude of Public Spaces
 Kerry Priest: The Bone Staircase
 Ellie Rees: Mainly Swallows
 Matt Riker: Starfish
 Bonnie Thurston: *Respice Finem: Oxford Revisited*
 Patricia Helen Wooldridge: Being

And from there selected five finalists:

David Calcutt: Wintering
 Leonie Charlton: Ten minutes weather away
 Paul Jeffcutt: Telling the Bees
 Bonnie Thurston: *Respice Finem: Oxford Revisited*
 Patricia Helen Wooldridge: Being

At this stage our task became almost impossible. All of these five poets deserve to have their work in print. But we had to make decisions and the two that stood out after every rereading were:

Leonie Charlton: *Ten minutes weather away*
 Patricia Helen Wooldridge: Being

Huge congratulations to Leonie and Patricia.

Leonie Charlton: *Ten minutes weather away*

The sense of place and of senses porous to land and sea bring to life this stand-out sequence of poems. The voice, at once conversational and distinctive, is enraging and personal. There's an ache at the core of the beauty here, not of self-pity or of indulgence, but of empathy, of griefs, both human and beyond human, that held to the light, recognised, and invite compassion. This is clear-eyed but gracious poetry.

***Being* by Patricia Helen Wooldridge**

There is a musical quality to these poems, a delicacy that overlays real depth. The imagery is precise, original and striking, but never forced. The voice is contemplative but accessible. Steeped in the natural world and with a quality of observation that takes in more than the surface of things, each exquisite phrase balances on the next to make connections that go on resonating. This is poetry to savour, slowly, and to return to.