

## Cinnamon Pencil Award

Huge thanks to everyone who entered the Cinnamon Pencil Award this year. Supporting these awards helps us to keep publishing amazing writers and it also brings wonderful new writers to our attention.

The last two years seem to have brought in many more outstanding submissions, perhaps because in difficult times we become more deeply reflective and orient ourselves to what matters most in our lives, including our creativity. As with last year's entries, we've seen both a rise in number of submissions, but also a rise in the quality of the writing with writers taking more risks with both themes and style. It's been a pleasure to read the work sent in and we're always grateful that writers trust us with their art.

This doesn't make adjudication easy, but we sincerely hope that all those on the longlist will continue taking their work seriously and giving it time and power. Whatever the results, thank you for sharing your writing with us. It takes a lot of courage to send off what we love and are committed to and then have to wait for results.

### **The longlist:**

Vasiliki Albedo  
Aaron Ackerman  
John C Addison  
Karon Alderman  
Dawid Bartkowski  
Jenny Bailey  
Simon Bracken  
Priya Chandran  
Helen Dean  
Robert Egan  
Paula Gibbon  
Angharad Griffiths  
Susan He  
Christopher Jefferies  
Katya Johnson  
Sara Jones  
Sue Lee  
Philippa Lewis  
Erin Lloyd  
Ieva Mendez  
Craig Morgan-Thomas  
Ruth Newton  
Ali Norell  
Katy Oglethorpe  
Wesley Roberts  
Kathryn Short  
Penny Shutt  
David Stephens  
Lucy Underhill  
Sarah Watkinson  
Gail Webb  
Benedict Wilson

Getting this down to a shortlist was a difficult process, especially since so much imagination and potential was displayed throughout the long listed entries, but these entries particularly stood out.

**Shortlist:**

Vasiliki Albedo  
Karon Alderman  
Simon Bracken  
Angharad Griffiths  
Katya Johnson  
Sue Lee  
Philippa Lewis  
Erin Lloyd  
Ieva Mendez  
Ruth Newton  
Katy Oglethorpe  
Penny Shutt  
David Stephens  
Sarah Watkinson  
Gail Webb  
Benedict Wilson

We have read and re-read these manuscripts, each with distinctive turns of phrase, ideas, commitment to craft and accompanied by writing statements that showed ambition to push boundaries. With so much variation and across different fiction and poetry genres, making a final decision was certainly a challenge.

Huge congratulations to Erin Lloyd and Benedict Wilson winners of the full bursary places. Erin will be developing her collection of short stories, *When We Were Older*, and Benedict will be working on a collection of poetry, *Gifts of Air*.

We had so much strong writing that we decided to award three 50% bursaries rather than two so congratulations also go to Vasiliki Albedo, Simon Bracken and Angharad Griffiths.

As with last year, it looks like places on the mentoring programme may be over-subscribed but as the standard was so high we would love to receive applications from those long-listed and short-listed. We also want to make mentoring as accessible as possible, so will offer a 20% discount to anyone on the short or long list who makes an application and who we can match with one of our mentors.

Full details are [here](#), but you don't need to resend all your documents through the website, simply send your attachments to [jan@cinnamonpress.com](mailto:jan@cinnamonpress.com) with subject 'Cinnamon Pencil offer'

Once again, thank you to everyone who entered. Keep writing and keep well.

Jan & Adam