

Gerald Lampert Memorial Award Shortlist 2013

The Gerald Lampert Memorial Award is given in the memory of Gerald Lampert, an arts administrator who organized authors' tours and took a particular interest in the work of new writers.

The award recognizes the best first book of poetry published by a Canadian in the preceding year. The award carries a \$1,000 prize and is sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets.

This year's shortlisted poets and books are:

Charms Against Lightning by James Arthur (Copper Canyon Press)

I see my love more clearly from a distance by Nora Gould (Brick Books)

The Lease by Mathew Henderson (Coach House Books)

Sumptuary Laws by Nyla Matuk (Véhicule Press/A Signal Edition)

Repeater by Andrew McEwan (BookThug)

Notebook M by Gillian Savigny (Insomniac Press)

2013 Jury: Kathy Mac, Marguerite Pigeon, Heather Cadsby

Congratulations to all of the authors for their fine work, and many thanks to the jurors for their dedication on this year's awards.

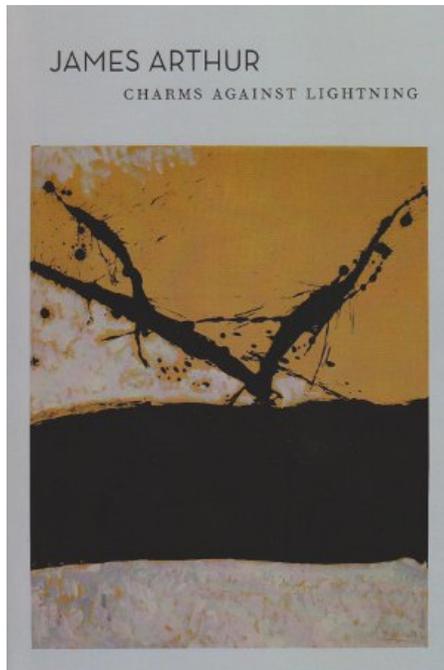
The winner of this award will be announced at the LCP Annual Poetry Festival and Conference in Toronto, ON, on June 8th, 2013.

For more information visit: www.poets.ca

Charms Against Lightning

by James Arthur

(Copper Canyon Press)



About the author:



James Arthur

James Arthur was born in Connecticut and grew up in Toronto. His poems have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, *Poetry*, *Ploughshares*, *Brick* and *The American Poetry Reunion*. He has received the Amy Lowell Travelling Poetry Scholarship, a Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Poetry, a residency at the Amy Clampitt House, and a Discovery/ *The Nation* Prize. *Charms Against Lightning*, his debut, poetry collection, was published in 2012 by Copper Canyon Press as a Lannan Literary Selection. Arthur is currently a Hodder Fellow at Princeton University. He is a dual citizen of the US and Canada.

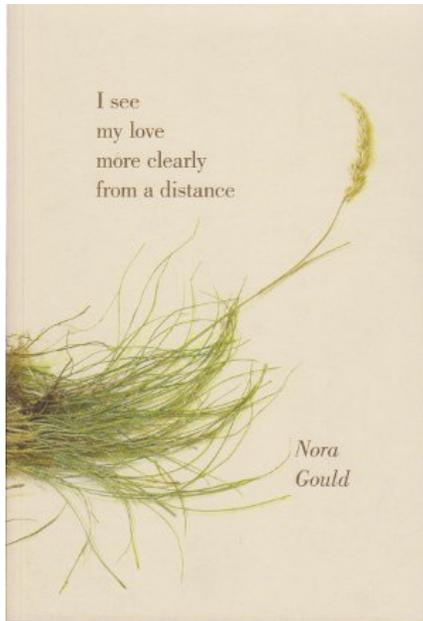
Judges' Comments:

In *Charms Against Lightning*, James Arthur writes, "...there's no perfect here and there, or now and then – but here we are, again." And with reason: his poetry begins in the present and moves backward and forward, creating a quirky journey through an alert mind. Masterful use of rhetorical techniques -- rhyme, consonance, questioning, anaphora, etc. -- allows his often solitary figures to experience awe, puzzlement, psychic dislocation and false starts. However, his fixations are not simply stylistic; an intellectual tone of hesitation makes these poems startle and soar. This is a fabulous debut.

***I see my love more clearly
from a distance***

by Nora Gould

(Brick Books)



About the author:



Nora Gould

Nora Gould writes from east central Alberta where she ranches with her family and volunteers in wildlife rehabilitation with the Medicine River Wildlife Centre. She graduated from the University of Guelph with a degree in veterinary medicine. *I see my love more clearly from a distance* is her first poetry collection. In 2009 Nora Gould won the Banff Centre Bliss Carman Poetry Award.

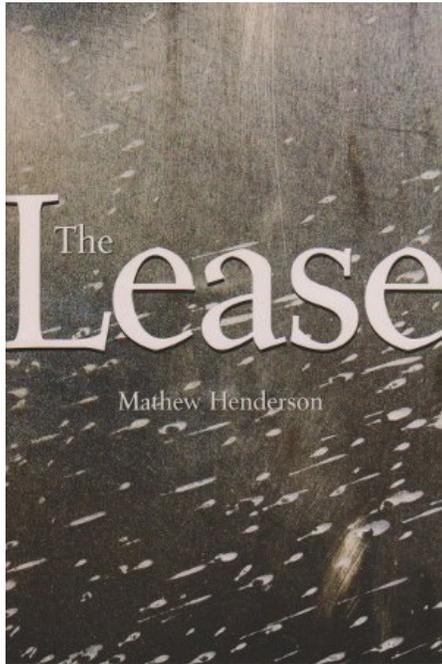
Judges' Comments:

Nora Gould's autobiographical collection fascinates, in part because – as a veterinarian, rancher, matriarch and patient – Gould draws from an uncommonly deep life-well. She does so with linguistic acuity, bringing to the plain joys and pains of her world such persistent attention that the table of contents itself reads like a novel. Like poets such as Lorri Neilsen Glenn, Gould has come to poetry late, strong, and with a lot to say. Her book recounts unembellished stories of the ways that tools and characters rub against each other on a functioning ranch, working themselves either to a high polish or to pieces.

The Lease

by Mathew Henderson

(Coach House Books)



About the author:



Mathew Henderson

Mathew Henderson is a recent graduate of the University of Guelph's MFA program. Originally from Prince Edward Island, he now lives in Toronto, writes about the prairies and teaches at Humber College. *The Lease* is his first book of poetry.

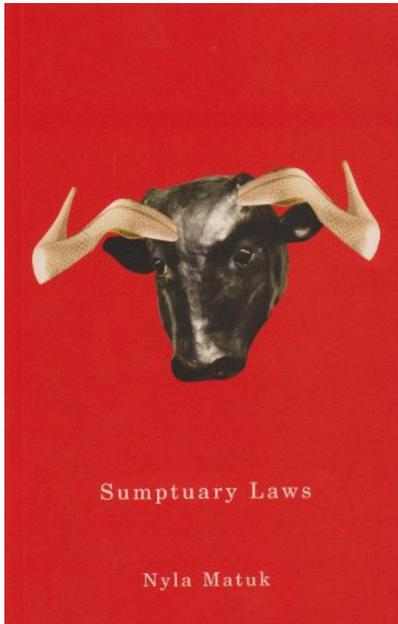
Judges' Comments:

In stark poetic language and with a willingness to stand as uncomfortable witness rather than judge, Mathew Henderson looks straight into the flares of Canada's oilfields and finds loneliness, labour, destruction, production, and forms of masculinity that rival fire in their wild display. *The Lease* is a trip to the oil fields in all their drama, one that deliberately jars with the narrator's memories of being guided by his father through the more open landscapes of childhood. Henderson's poems recount the call and pain of a working life that will inevitably expire. *The Lease* is a unique and necessary contribution to Canada's poetic landscape.

Sumptuary Laws

by Nyla Matuk

(Véhicule Press/A Signal Edition)



About the author:



Nyla Matuk

Nyla Matuk is the author of the poetry chapbook, *Oneiric*. Her poems, short fiction and journalism have been published in *Maisonneuve*, *Prism International*, *Misunderstandings*, *ARC* and *The Globe and Mail*. She lives in Toronto.

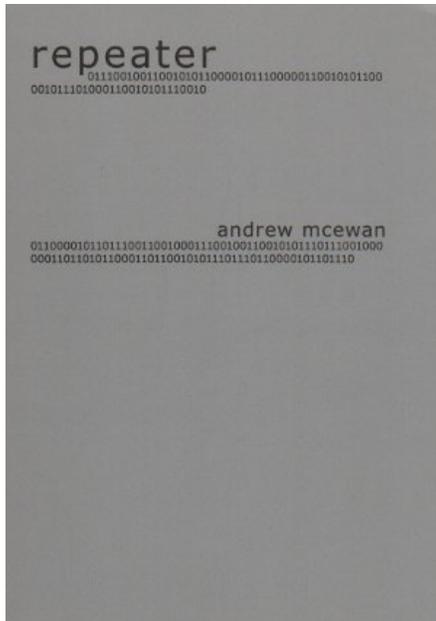
Judges' Comments:

In *Sumptuary Laws*, Nyla Matuk takes readers on a wild romp through social expenditure rules, from feudal times to the present. Her sumptuous lexicon and wandering mind wind us through poems ranging from melancholy staring to high-five woohoos. Her phrasal rhythm is impeccable and her mastery of style, whether lyric, surreal or conceptual, is apparent. The texts in the Commentary section are neither footnotes nor journal entries, but unique add-ons springing from an equally unpredictable starting point. The work in this debut collection is both haywire and authentic, introducing a stunning new voice in Canadian poetry.

Repeater

by Andrew McEwan

(BookThug)



About the author:



Andrew McEwan

Andrew McEwan is the author of the chapbook *Input/Output* from Cactus Press. His writing was awarded the E.J. Pratt Poetry Medal. He is currently finishing his undergraduate studies at the University of Toronto, where he has been the Editor-in-Chief at the *Acta Victoriana Literary Journal* and Poetry Editor at *The Hart House Review*. *repeater* is his first book.

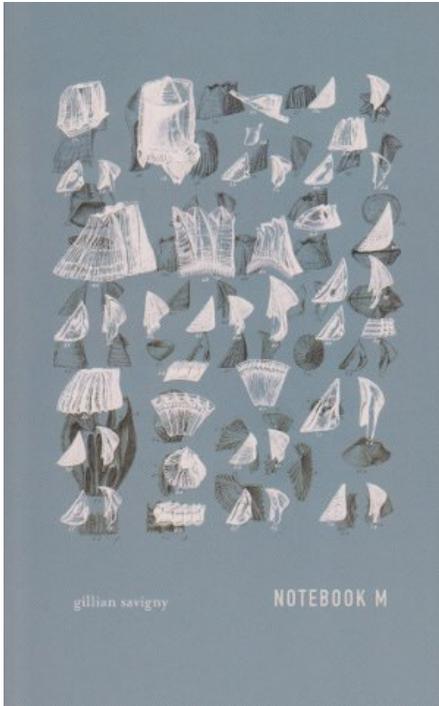
Judges' Comments:

The desire to impose order on the world has led us, ultimately, to tidy computer languages of 0s and 1s that today frame much of people's daily experience. Andrew McEwan recognizes this impulse to encode, but, happily, he also digs below the surface of friendly computer interfaces to explore how our bodies, senses and creativity relate to their neat architecture. What he finds are gaps, sometimes mysterious, often productive, in our ability to communicate, unify and capture the world. *Repeater* doubles as an analog to the digital age and a moving meditation on the poetic impulse to convey reality and defy the constraints of all language.

Notebook M

by Gillian Savigny

(Insomniac Press)



About the author:



Gillian Savigny

Originally from Vancouver, Gillian Savigny has studied and worked in cities across Canada. She holds a B.A. honours degree in English Literature from Queen's University and an M.A. degree in English Literature and Creative Writing from Concordia University. She lives in Toronto, where she works in the nonprofit sector.

Judges' Comments:

Inspired by one of the notebooks compiled by Charles Darwin on his voyage around the world, Gillian Savigny's *Notebook M* takes some provocative concepts of nineteenth century naturalism and runs with them. The book's three sections play with poetic form, particularly "Journal of Researches: Patagonia," in which Savigny exhumes poetry from Darwin's texts. Savigny's language compels the reader, seamlessly integrating scientific and pseudo-scientific terms -- a significant achievement. Like Darwin, she covers uncharted ground, and her poetry exhibits the same charm that earmarks his prose. *M* is for many things, including magnificent.