

Gerald Lampert Memorial Award Shortlist 2014

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:

the place of scraps by Jordan Abel (Talonbooks)

Rove by Laurie D. Graham (Hagios Press)

Light Light by Julie Joosten (BookThug)

Surge Narrows by Emilia Nielsen (Leaf Press)

The Survival Rate of Butterflies in the Wild by Murray Reiss (Hagios Press)

Incarnate by Juleta Severson-Baker (Frontenac House Poetry)

2014 Jury: Keith Garebian, Carl Leggo, Pearl Pirie

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

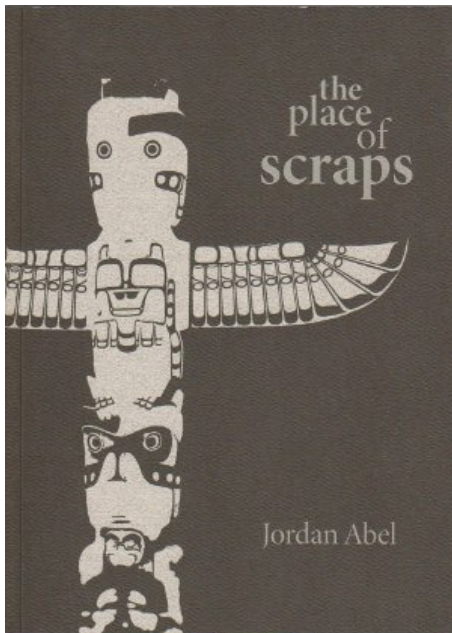
The winner of this award will be announced at the LCP Annual Poetry Festival and Conference in Toronto, ON, on June 7th, 2014.

For more information visit: www.poets.ca

the place of scraps

by Jordan Abel

(Talonbooks)



About the author:



Jordan Abel

Jordan Abel is a First Nations writer who lives in Vancouver. He holds a BA from the University of Alberta and an MFA from the University of British Columbia. Abel is an editor for *Poetry is Dead* magazine and the former poetry editor for *PRISM International*. His work has been published in many journals and magazines across Canada, including *Contemporary Verse 2*, the *Capilano Review*, *Prairie Fire*, *dANdelion*, *Geist*, *ARC Magazine*, *Descant*, *Broken Pencil*, *OCW Magazine*, *filling station*, *Grain*, and *Canadian Literature*. In early 2013, above/ground press published his chapbook *Scientia*.

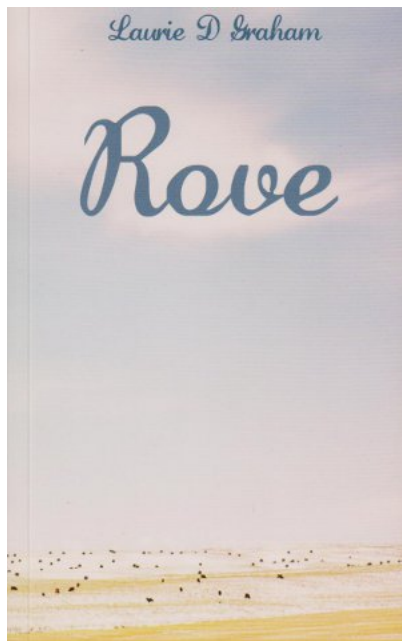
Judges' Comments:

the place of scraps is—inventive, language-focused, visualist, and personal, autobiographical, historical, heartfelt.... Equally adept at narrative, non-narrative, and erasure, it conveys a novel-like momentum. Visual poems are pulled into the narrative. It progresses and builds to surprise even when the page erased all text and left only commas. It plays cleverly with and against itself as a book and interrogation of public and private history. Abel finds, rewrites, plunders, appropriates the texts of the anthropologist Marius Barbeau to create a book of poetry unlike anything I have ever read. Stunning!

Rove

by Laurie D. Graham

(Hagios Press)



About the author:



Laurie D. Graham

Laurie D. Graham grew up in Sherwood Park, Alberta, and now lives in London, Ontario, where she is a poet, teacher, and editor of *Brick, A Literary Journal*. Her poems have appeared in numerous Canadian journals and anthologies, including *Event*, *Arc*, *The Malahat Review*, and *Best Canadian Poetry 2012*.

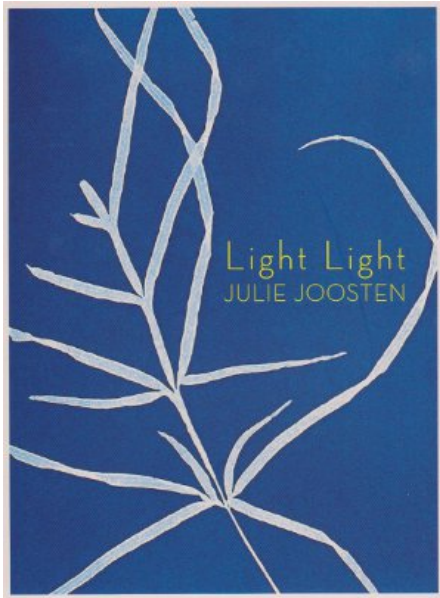
Judges' Comments:

Rove is a stunning long poem in a manner reminiscent of Jan Zwicky and Robert Kroetsch that combines meditation with compact sensory impressions. Its language resonates through the twists and turns of immigrants' lived stories. Innovate, lyrical, wise, and moving, *Rove* considers and details the surface changes of a region in western Canada, evoking a strong sense of place. With ideas and characters returning like refrains, there is a strong idiosyncratic tone, and the final third is powerful in its melancholy mood. This book is a pleasure to re-read.

Light Light

by Julie Joosten

(BookThug)



About the author:



Julie Joosten

Julie Joosten grew up in Marietta, Georgia. She has an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and a PhD from Cornell University. She lives in Toronto. *Light Light* is her first book.

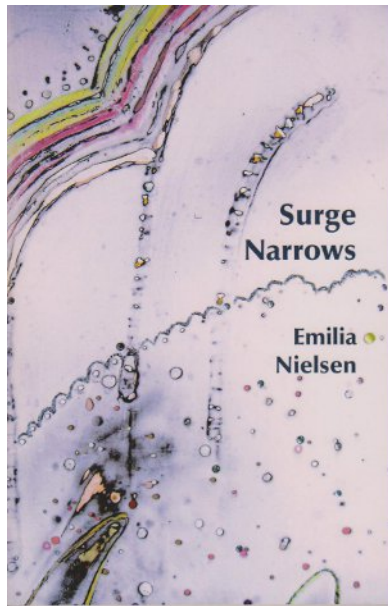
Judges' Comments:

Light Light is not light, but light-filled. Philosophical, lyrical, inventive, and erudite, precise and startlingly perceptive, it invites the reader to attend to wonder. It pulls from all kinds of sources, tangible and archival. The stanza's lines perch off centred, but not so far off balance to topple. It picks its way carefully, with a hint of what's coming, but can't predict where it will go. The hand is sure. A lot of texts try to weave this sort of material, historical, immediate personal story, philosophical, introspective, and fail in the effort. This one is quite captivating.

Surge Narrows

by Emilia Nielsen

(Leaf Press)



About the author:



Emilia Nielsen

Emilia Nielsen was born on Vancouver Island and now lives in Vancouver, BC. Her poetry has appeared in literary journals including: *The Antigonish Review*, *Descant*, *Event*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *The Fiddlehead*, *Grain*, *Prairie Fire*, *Room Magazine*, and was nominated for a Pushcart Prize in Poetry by *PRISM International*. Currently, she teaches in the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice in the Faculty of Arts at the University of British Columbia.

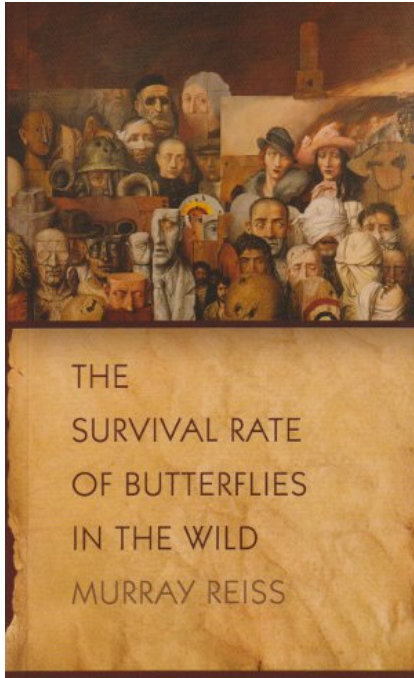
Judges' Comments:

Surge Narrows is imaginative, sensual, evocative, and wise. There is a seeming simplicity in many of the poems, but the sparse language calls forth a meaningful attentiveness. Many of the poems are dominated by strong geographical and botanical images. Some of the poems exhibit a strong tactile sense as well as a command of tone that sings amorously while also challenging conventions. Many of the poems demonstrate a dexterity with language and metaphor. Ideas and emotions are often packed tightly inside the poems which offer quiet but firm invitations to find significance. Above all, the poet is immersed in humanity.

The Survival Rate of Butterflies in the Wild

by Murray Reiss

(Hagios Press)



About the author:



Murray Reiss

Murray Reiss was born in Sarnia, ON, and lives on Salt Spring Island, BC, with his wife Karen, a ceramic sculptor. Since moving to Salt Spring Island in 1979 he's been a special education teacher and child care worker, and coordinator of the Salt Spring Water Council. He currently works as a freelance editor and environmental writer. His poetry and prose have been published in literary magazines and anthologies in Canada and the United States. His chapbook, *Distance from the Locus*, was published by Mothertongue Press in 2005. He also performs with singer-songwriter Phil Vernon as the "folkenword" duo Midnight Bridge.

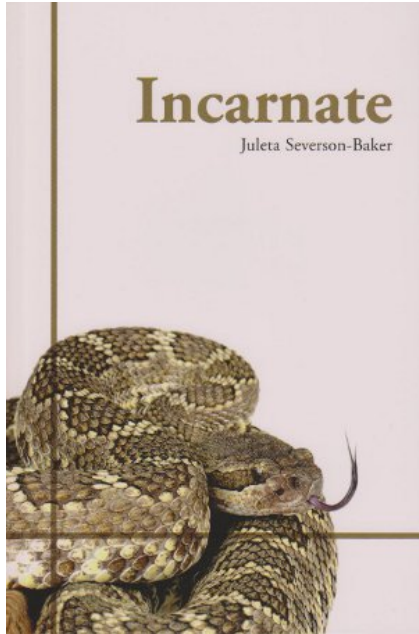
Judges' Comments:

A powerful, moving book with poems that are poignant, accurate, written in deep ancestral memory, and in figurative language that is sometimes delicate and always accomplished. By focussing on the story of his relationship with his father, Reiss suggests how personal experience is inextricably connected to various contexts that form and transform our lives. A reader's emotional engagement and the poet's craft is sustained throughout, and no matter how passionate, the poems never collapse into mere emotion. This book feels important and heartfelt. Watch your wallet because this book has the articulacy of a confidence man.

Incarnate

by Juleta Severson-Baker

(Frontenac House Poetry)



About the author:



Juleta Severson-Baker

Juleta lives in her hometown of Calgary, Alberta where she writes, teaches poetry and performance at the Mount Royal University Conservatory, works as a birth doula, and mothers two wonderful children. Her poetry has been previously published in *All That Uneasy Spring* (a Leaf Press chapbook ed. Patrick Lane), the journals *NōD* and *Freefall*, and online at *Verse Daily* and *The House of Blue Skies*. In 2010 her chapbook *A Hundred Pelts* won Freefall press' 20th Anniversary contest for poetry.

Judges' Comments:

Incarnate is a beautiful and aptly titled book—sensual and erotic. Severson-Baker's able hand does not overstate or show itself too soon. The poems are not complex, but they allow complexity in. You cannot predict where a poem will go, but it fits when you are brought there. Some of the poems are love poems that do not become sentimental—a hard mark to hit. Other poems keep only the salient parts, the dense demonstrative parts, and build a momentum. The poems are smart without cleverness. The inner world is present without blotting out the wider world that includes Darfur.