

Pat Lowther Memorial Award Shortlist 2015

The Pat Lowther Memorial Award is given for a book of poetry by a Canadian woman published in the preceding year, and is in memory of the late Pat Lowther, whose career was cut short by her untimely death in 1975.

The award carries a \$1,000 prize and is sponsored by the League of Canadian Poets.

This year's shortlisted poets and books are:

Halfling Spring: an internet romance by Joanne Arnott (Kegedonce Press)

School by Jen Currin (Coach House Books)

Tree Line by Judy Halebsky (New Issues Poetry & Prose)

A Quiet Coming of Light by Jude Neale (Leaf Press)

MxT by Sina Queyras (Coach House Books)

Cinema of the Present by Lisa Robertson (Coach House Books)

2015 Jury: Di Brandt, Candice James, Concetta Principe

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

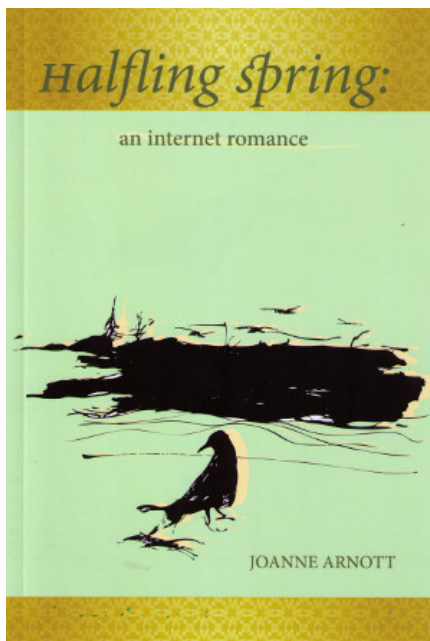
The winner of this award will be announced at the LCP Annual Poetry Festival and Conference in Winnipeg on May 30th, 2015.

For more information visit: www.poets.ca

***Halfling Spring:
an internet romance***

by Joanne Arnott

(Kegedonce Press)



About the author:



Joanne Arnott

Joanne Arnott is a Canadian Métis/mixed-blood writer born in Winnipeg, and living in Coast Salish territories on the west coast. A publishing and performing poet since the 80s, a blogger in more recent years, Joanne is the mother to six young people, all born at home. She is the author of *Steepy Mountain love poetry* (Kegedonce, 2004), *Mother Time* and *A Night for the Lady* (Ronsdale, 2007, 2013). *Halfling Spring: an internet romance* is Joanne's eighth book, and her sixth book of poetry.

Judges' Comments:

Arnott's love poems throw themselves with great courage and abandon, into lust and longing, wisdom and depth: depth of vision, depth of longing, depth of grief, depth of love. "I am a door you have opened/a passage you have entered...[i] let you all the way in/to my full self." The satisfaction of these poems is not their stability or sense of permanence, but rather their willingness to give away everything, to fly to the end of world in search of real fiery lit up connection.

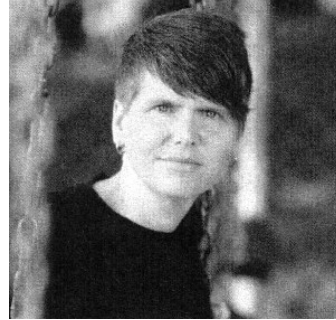
School

by Jen Currin

(Coach House Books)



About the author:



Jen Currin

Jen Currin's previous books are *The Sleep of Four Cities*, *Hagiography* and *The Final Inquisition Yours*, which was a finalist for three awards and won the 2011 Audre Lorde Award for Lesbian Poetry. She lives in Vancouver and teaches at Vancouver Community College and Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

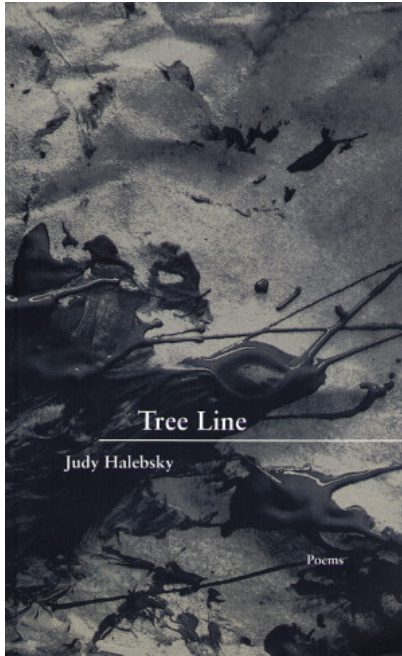
Judges' Comments:

Jen Currin's *School* is intense: intense in emotion, in experience, in formalistic experiment. Each poem built of a series of disjointed lines articulates that sense of unease aroused by life lessons: the death of a parent, the rush of new love, daily failures. For all this push to experiment, the real world is always there, in concrete, vivid and at the most unexpected moments, humorous terms.

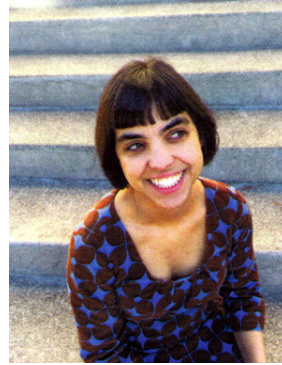
Tree Line

by Judy Halebsky

(New Issues Poetry & Prose)



About the author:



Judy Halebsky

Judy Halebsky's first book, *Shy=Empty*, won the New Issues Prize and was a finalist for the California Book Award. Her chapbook, *Spacel Gap/Interval/Distance*, won the Poets-Under-Forty award from Sixteen Rivers Press. Originally from Nova Scotia, she now lives in Oakland and teaches at Dominican University of California.

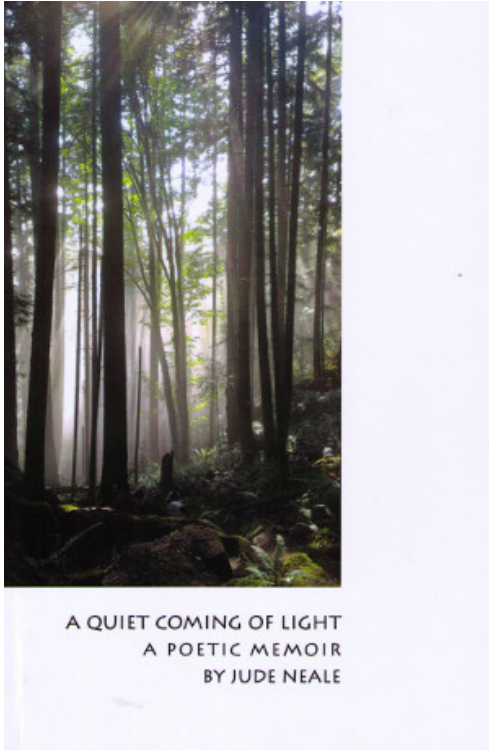
Judges' Comments:

Judy Halebsky simplifies and complicates sporadically as we ramble through this poetic dance tripping on magic, standing on logic, skulking in shadow and pondering light. "Ink On Paper": *'If you want to remember me/ wash my picture in the pocket of your jeans'* – Illogical logic predominant throughout.

A Quiet Coming of Light

by Jude Neale

(Leaf Press)



About the author:



Jude Neale

Jude Neale was shortlisted for the Gregory O'Donoghue International Poetry Prize (Ireland), The International Poetic Republic Poetry Prize (UK), The Mary Chalmers Smith Poetry Prize (UK), The Wenlock International Poetry Prize (UK), and The Royal City short story and poem contest, where she placed second in both categories. She was nominated for the Canadian ReLit Award and the Pat Lowther Memorial Award for the book *Only the Fallen Can See*.

Judges' Comments:

Jude Neale adeptly blends deep sensuality with the scars of love into a torn, yet delicious, palpable eloquence. "The Affair: *'I knew what was mine when I'd found it. So did you - though you blackened my wings in your fire'*"; "Places Beyond": *'I see the sky unbuttoned by wishes'*. The imagery in these poems is nothing short of excellence at its finest.

M x T

by Sina Queyras

(Coach House Books)



About the author:



Sina Queyras

Sina Queyras is the author of the Lambda Award-winning *Lemon Hound*, *Expressway* (shortlisted for the Governor General's Award), and the novel *Autobiography of Childhood* (shortlisted for the Amazon First Novel Award). She often writes for the Poetry Foundation and runs the online journal *Lemon Hound*.

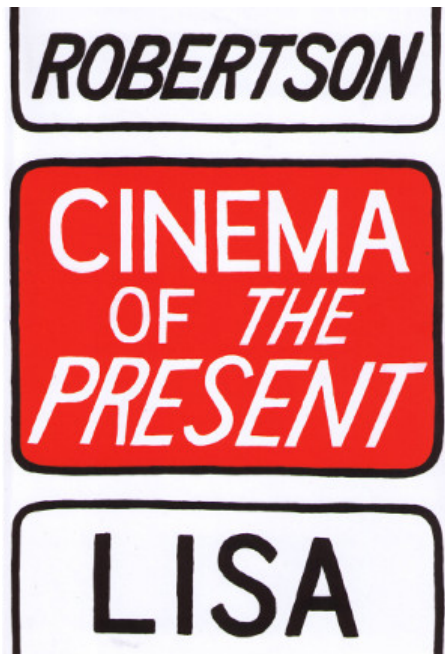
Judges' Comments:

Sina Queyras mystically sews the ghost to the body, the dead to the living, the thread of 'what if' to the cloth of 'it is'. The dialogues with the dead are softly honed into majestic surreal sculptures as Queyras paints us into a different kind of reality alive with the dead and scriptures of the third kind. A thrilling fusion of defiance and vulnerability, and quirky humour. Experimental writing with a lot of heart.

Cinema of the Present

by Lisa Robertson

(Coach House Books)



About the author:



Lisa Robertson

Lisa Robertson's *Magenta Soul Whip* was named one of the New York Times' 100 Notable books of 2010. Her other books include *Debbie: An Epic*, *The Men*, *Occasional Work* and *Seven Walks from the Office for Soft Architecture*, *Nilling* and *R's Boat*. Born in Toronto, she lived in Vancouver for many years, and has held residencies and visiting positions at Cambridge University, Princeton University of Paris and the California College of the Arts. She now lives in France, and works as a tutor at Piet Swart Institute in Rotterdam, and as a freelance art writer.

Judges' Comments:

Robertson's *Cinema of the Present* is a brilliant dense experimental engagement with the dramatic dialogue. Whether the exchange represents a dialogue with an intimate other, the inner self or the ubiquity of cinematic culture, two voices propel the reader onward with the force of a current until this amazing rush brings us to a barely audible turning point, signaling that the voices have changed positions; one can be heard to loosely echo of the other. It is as if Robertson has channeled the ancient nymph, Echo, for our twenty-first century.