

Aesthetica

Aesthetica Creative Writing Award 2015 Winners and Finalists Announced

The winners and finalists of the [Aesthetica Creative Writing Award 2015](#) have been announced, and are published in an anthology of outstanding poems and short stories: the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual 2016*. This publication is a collection of the work of 60 international writers, featuring the Short Fiction Winner Jasmine Sky Ruff, selected for her story *Polaroid Venation*, and the Poetry Winner Leland James who showcases *At the Nursing Home – inside an old man vacant by the window*.

The Aesthetica Creative Writing Award is an internationally renowned competition that attracts submissions from emerging and established writers from around the world. Now in its ninth year, the award is hosted by [Aesthetica Magazine](#), one of the leading publications for art, design and photography with a readership in print and digital of 284,000.

The winners and finalists represent a broad selection of the very best in established and promising international talent, and the featured compositions invoke a rich array of imagery and concepts that illuminate daily life.

Short Fiction Judge and Literary Editor of *The Independent*, Arifa Akbar says: “I was impressed by the overall standard and quality of this year’s fiction entries which made it all the harder, but in the end, more rewarding, to judge. Re-reading was often required. There are some popular themes among the selected stories, while each winner has a clear and distinctive voice of their own.”

Poet and Professor Dr Oz Hardwick selected the featured poems. Within the annual, each judge offers a professional review of the current literary landscape, contextualising the entries while mapping out current trends and developments.

The 2015 competition was fierce, with over 2,000 entries received from over 40 countries worldwide, including Australia, Canada, the USA, Spain, Sweden, Japan, Egypt, Ireland and across the UK. The final selection features university students alongside established literary professionals in a unique collection.

Best Short Fiction went to Jasmine Sky Ruff for her piece *Polaroid Venation*. Living in Vancouver, Ruff is studying Creative Writing and English Literature at the University of British Columbia. *Polaroid Venation* is part of a collection of short stories in progress.

Leland James was awarded **Best Poem** with *At the Nursing Home – inside an old man vacant by the window*. James’s poems have appeared in publications world-wide and have received numerous international honors. He is the author of three books of poetry.

This year's winners receive £500 prize money, a selection of books from [Bloodaxe Books](#) and [Vintage Books](#) along with a subscription to [Granta](#) for all year round inspiration.

Cherie Federico, Editor of Aesthetica Magazine, says: "in publishing the anthology, we are presented with a fantastic and unique opportunity to showcase the best emerging and established literary talent from across the world, and champion the winners and finalists from the Award. The result is an inspirational collection that combines longevity with innovation – a book that will stay with the reader, whilst offering new perspectives on the world and our place within it."

Notes to Editors:

1. The Aesthetica Creative Writing Award is hosted by Aesthetica Magazine. For more information visit www.aestheticamagazine.com/creativewriting
2. 60 finalists are published in the Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual 2016. Print and digital versions can be ordered here: www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop
3. The competition received over 2,000 entries from over 40 countries worldwide
4. Short Fiction Winner 2016: Jasmine Sky Ruff, *Polaroid Venation*. Poetry Winner 2016: Leland James, *At the Nursing Home – inside an old man vacant by the window*
5. Judges included: **Arifa Akbar**, Literary Editor of *The Independent* and *inewspapers*; Poet and Professor Dr **Oz Hardwick**; and a reading panel including: **Martine Pierquin**, Course Organiser in Creative Writing and Film, Media and Contemporary Cultures at the University of Edinburgh Short Courses; **Stephen Toase**, whose work is published extensively and who is currently working with imove Arts on a project called *Haunt*; **Rebekah Lattin-Rawstone**, a writer, editor, book blogger, creative writing teacher and Acting Director of the Novel Studio at City University; and **Liz Jones**, teaching Fellow at Aberystwyth University's Theatre, Film and Television Department.
6. Partners and sponsors include The Independent, Bloodaxe Books, Vintage Books and Granta.

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