

## 2015 Poetry Pamphlet Prize Adjudication

This was a very strong field with a an extensive longlist. Congratulations to all those who made this list:

Christian Wethered  
Sharon Larkin  
David Lloyd  
Helen Kidd  
Pat Borthwick  
Frances Smith  
Martin Kratz  
Marieluise Niehus  
Andy Turner  
Karen Goodwin  
Fiona Smith  
Penny Shutt  
Peter Kenny  
Isabella Mead  
David Van-Couter  
Joolz Sparkes  
Christine Whittemore  
Shirley Bell  
Hilaire  
Rueben Woolley  
Michael Oliver Haigh  
Jackie Garman  
Lynee Taylor  
Mair de Gare Pitt  
Helen Hill  
Giles Turnbull  
Lesley Burt  
Alison Carter  
Marie Naiughton  
Oonah V'yonne  
Jean Watkins  
Charles Payne  
Genevieve Carver  
A C Clarke  
David Batten  
Helen May Williams  
Carolyn Waudby  
Jean Harrison  
David Gilbert  
Jamie Thomas  
Joan Michelson  
Rowan Stace  
Mantz Yorke  
J S Watts  
Kate Venables  
Lorna Dexter  
Patricia Leighton  
Chris Rice  
Sue Moules  
Sarah McLoed

Dan Smith  
 Michael Brown  
 Helen Kay  
 Louise Tondeur  
 Robin Houghton  
 Paul Nash  
 Jean Syrkiewicz  
 Rachel Davies  
 Joanna Lilley  
 Ellen Davies  
 Jill Abram  
 Gareth Culshaw  
 Alan Hester  
 Patricia Helen Wooldridge  
 Rob Cullen  
 Sue Burge  
 Julie Mellor  
 Lesley Saunders  
 Margaret Wilmot  
 Elisabeth Sennitt Clough  
 Derek Sellen  
 Sriram Gokul Chinnasamy  
 Scott Elder  
 David Olsen  
 Hilary Hares  
 Margaret Eddershaw  
 K V Skene  
 Bonnie Thurston  
 Ruby Turok-Squire  
 Stephen Keeler  
 Frances Sackett  
 Lauren Pope  
 Sarah Watkinson  
 Jenny Morris  
 Merryn Williams  
 Susan Utting  
 Maria Isakova Bennett & Michael Brown

Getting it down to the final 20 was a difficult task, but in the end the short list came down to:

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|-----|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1.  | <i>The Phantom Fundamental</i>         | Ruby Turok-Squire                     |
| 2.  | <i>The Intelligence of Strangers</i>   | Maria Isakova Bennett & Michael Brown |
| 3.  | <i>Partial Eclipse</i>                 | Julie Mellor                          |
| 4.  | <i>The Sea and I</i>                   | Patricia Helen Wooldridge             |
| 5.  | <i>Out of Place</i>                    | David Lloyd                           |
| 6.  | <i>An Ampitheatre of Moss</i>          | Sarah Watkinson                       |
| 7.  | <i>Words from Water</i>                | Ellen Davies                          |
| 8.  | <i>Bug Man</i>                         | David Gilbert                         |
| 9.  | <i>Beneath the Elysian Fields</i>      | Lauren Pope                           |
| 10. | <i>Journey into the Dark</i>           | A C Clarke                            |
| 11. | <i>The Location of a Soul</i>          | Michael Brown                         |
| 12. | <i>The Book of the Breast</i>          | Dana Smith                            |
| 13. | <i>already missing</i>                 | David Batten                          |
| 14. | <i>A Teesside Girl and other poems</i> | Sriram Gokul Chinnasamy               |
| 15. | <i>Getting Rid of the Snowdrop</i>     | Jean Harrison                         |

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|-----|-------------------------------|----------------|
| 16. | <i>Lingua Franca</i>          | Robin Houghton |
| 17. | <i>After Timoleague</i>       | K V Skene      |
| 18. | <i>Dressing Up</i>            | Giles Turnbull |
| 19. | <i>The Edge of Forgetting</i> | David Olsen    |
| 20. | <i>The Road I Take</i>        | Pat Borthwick  |

From these extremely strong entries the final four winning pamphlets were:

**Ruby Turok Squire — *The Phantom Fundamental***

This sequence is an extended meditation on music, and is marvelously evocative in its discovery of surprising and nuanced images for an abstract non-visual art, its notating, for example, of the emotional meaning of musical pitch, as when notes in C sharp are described as 'like a stem/cell of music,/ waiting for an organ to learn.'

**Sarah Watkinson — *An Amphitheatre of Moss***

These poems explore the boundary between science and poetry, and juxtapose the lexicon of organic chemistry, in particular, with a botanical discourse which is more conventional in poetry, but which the scientific treatment defamiliarises. This might have been abstruse and heavy, but the treatment lightens this with an imaginative playfulness, as in 'The First Green Human: The Observer Interviews Clorinda', where Marvell's pastoral character is turned, through a journalistic register, into a personification of current ecological concerns.

**Dana Smith — *The Book of the Breast***

This sequence takes the very challenging subject of breast cancer, and, while regarding it with the appropriate seriousness, also treats it with an inventiveness and wit that asks telling questions about the cultural meanings that breasts have acquired, as in 'My Breasts and I Consider Elizabeth 1' which deploys early modern language to suggest the longevity of the concerns which these poems raise, the 'Sweet mutability' to which bodily existence is subject.

**Giles Turnbull — *Dressing Up***

These poems use energetic and open free verse forms to evoke the slippery and mercurial nature of contemporary urban experience, and have a conspicuous command of voice and tone, so that they are very lively but also capable of shifting, with high intelligence, into more meditative modes.

Congratulations to the winners and we look forward to publishing their pamphlets as our first publications in 2017.

Ian Gregson & Jan Fortune