

17 August 2011

Prestigious Poetry Competition Winners Announced At Edinburgh International Book Festival

The prizewinners in the fourth Edwin Morgan International Poetry Competition were announced at a ceremony at the Edinburgh International Book Festival last night.

The first prize of £5,000 has been awarded to Jane McKie for her poem Leper Window, St Mary the Virgin, which was judged to be the best of an initial field of 1,200 entries from around the world.

The ceremony was held just before the first anniversary of the death, at the age of 90, of Professor Edwin Morgan, who held the post of Scotland's first Makar, or national poet.

The competition, sponsored by the University of Strathclyde and hosted by the Book Festival, offers one of the biggest poetry prizes in the UK, with awards totalling £6,600. The winning poems were chosen by this year's judges, poets Vicki Feaver and Kona Macphee.

Kona Macphee said of the winning poem: "Leper Window epitomises everything I love about poetry. It revels in the musicality of language and is magnificently concise, evoking a whole lost world in a dozen elegantly understated lines."

Vicki Feaver said: "I think it was Coleridge who defined poetry as 'the best words in the best order.' This moving and beautifully constructed poem follows that definition perfectly."

Dr David Kinloch, a Reader in Strathclyde's Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences and co-founder of the competition, chaired the event. He said: "It has again been a pleasure to have received so many entries of such high quality.

"It has been particularly gratifying as we prepare to mark the first anniversary of Edwin Morgan's death. As one of the outstanding poets of the modern age, he left a formidable poetic legacy and this resonates in the entries to this year's competition."

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:

frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481

THE WORLD, IN WORDS

CHARLOTTE SQUARE GARDENS
EDINBURGH
www.edbookfest.co.uk
13 – 29 AUGUST 2011

NEWS RELEASE



in association with

theguardian

Jane McKie previously won the Sundial/Scottish Arts Council Best First Book award for her debut collection, *Morocco Rococo*, published in 2007. She also founded Knucker Press, a small press which specialises in prose and poetry publications combining word and image.

Other winners in the competition were:

- second prize (£1,000) *Ossuary*, by Lydia MacPherson
- third prize (£500)- *Four Sisters: Sargent's 'The Daughters of Edward D. Boit,'* by Jane Yeh
- runners-up (£50)- *Loving Medusa*, by Gillian Andrews; *Remains*, by Sarah Jackson
- commended poems- *Gist* by Paula Cunningham; *Other People's Dreams* by Helen Mort; *Snow Angel* by Aileen Ballantyne; *Ten O'Clock Horses* by Sarah Jackson; *Troup Head* by Ian Crockatt.

Strathclyde's Humanities and Social Sciences make up the largest Faculty in the University. The Faculty is delivering high quality education and internationally recognised research across a spectrum of disciplines including Law, Government and Public Policy, English, History, Languages, Social Work, Teacher Education and Psychological Sciences & Health. It is set to benefit from eight new posts in the coming months through a major new investment in areas of strength, in addition to a £25 million package to create a new hub for the Faculty on the University's city-centre campus. More at: www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

1. All the shortlisted and commended poems can be read at <http://edwinmorganpoetrycompetition.co.uk/index.php/shortlisted-poems-2011>
2. Dr David Kinloch has been teaching creative writing and Scottish literature at the University of Strathclyde since 2003, and is a Reader in Poetry. He is the author of five collections of poetry – most recently *Finger of a Frenchman* (Carcanet) which was published this year. In 2004 he was the recipient of the Robert Louis Stevenson Memorial Award; in 2008 he held a Writers' Bursary from the Scottish Arts Council and an award from the Arts and Humanities Research Council for his poetry. He was a founder editor of the internationally respected poetry magazine *Verse*, and is a founder of the Scottish Writers' Centre. More at: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/courses/english/staff/kinlochdaviddr/>
3. More about Creative Writing at the University of Strathclyde: <http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/courses/journalism/courses/journalismcreativewriting/>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:

frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481

THE WORLD, IN WORDS

CHARLOTTE SQUARE GARDENS
EDINBURGH

www.edbookfest.co.uk

13 – 29 AUGUST 2011

NEWS RELEASE

EDINBURGH

INTERNATIONAL

BOOK

FESTIVAL

in association with

theguardian

Further information:

Media and Corporate Communications

University of Strathclyde

T: +44 (0) 141 548 2370

E: corporatecomms@strath.ac.uk

W: www.strath.ac.uk

Frances Sutton

Press Manager

Edinburgh International Book Festival

T: + 44 (0) 131 718 5654

M: 07841 579481

E: frances.sutton@edbookfest.co.uk

W: www.edbookfest.co.uk

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT FRANCES SUTTON, PRESS MANAGER:

frances@edbookfest.co.uk / Tel: 0131 718 5654 / Mob: 07841 579481

The Edinburgh International Book Festival Ltd is a Scottish charity (SC010120) and a limited company (registered in Scotland no 79939) and has its registered office at 5A Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, EH2 4DR.