

Press Release February 2015

Aesthetica Creative Writing Award Finalists 2015

Steve Wade has been selected as one of just 60 finalists in the international Aesthetica Creative Writing Award that attracted thousands of entries from writers across the world.

The Aesthetica Creative Writing Award is an internationally renowned poetry and short fiction competition open to emerging and established writers from around the world. Now in its eighth year, the award is hosted by Aesthetica Magazine, a leading contemporary art and culture publication with a readership of 180,000 worldwide.

The Award recognises excellence in creative writing and provides a platform for literary professionals to showcase their talent and reach a wider audience. Each year the finalists and winners are published in the *Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual*, an absorbing compendium that fuses new and critically-acclaimed international writers. Considering a vast range of themes and subject matter, the book reveals many different aspects of life in today's society alongside introductions by Arifa Akbar, Literary Editor of *The Independent* and *inewspapers*, and poet and Professor Dr Oz Hardwick.

The 2014 competition was fierce, with over 2,500 entries from 48 countries worldwide, including Australia, Canada, the USA, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Japan, China and the UK. 60 finalists from the poetry and short fiction categories, including a winner from each, were selected for publication, featuring recent university graduates alongside established literary professionals in a unique collection.

Winning entries include Corinne Demas' short story *Thanksgiving*, which was praised by judge Arifa Akbar as a piece with emotional undercurrents that swirl beneath the surface giving it heft and complexity. Winner of the poetry category, Charles Fishman impressed judges with his beautifully balanced work *Snow is the Poem Without Flaws* that echoes medieval riddles and enigmatic folk rhymes while confronting themes of contemporary conflict.

This year's winners were also awarded £500 each and, to kick-start a new writing project, were connected with leading organisations in the industry, including Christine Green Author's Agent and Apples and Snakes, to create a supportive network through mentoring sessions pushing their literary talent further. A selection of books from Bloodaxe Books and Vintage were also awarded to each winner along with a subscription to Granta for all year round inspiration.

Cherie Federico, Editor of Aesthetica Magazine and Judge of the Creative Writing Award, comments: "The prize recognises and champions new writing. 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 highlight the winners and finalists from the Award. The result is a collection of outstanding quality, which you can return to time and time again."

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 were published in the Aesthetica Creative Writing Annual 2015 in December 2014. Hard copies and digital copies can be ordered here: www.aestheticamagazine.com/shop
3. The competition received over 2,500 entries from 48 countries worldwide
4. Short Fiction Winner 2015: Corinne Demas, *Thanksgiving*. Poetry Winner 2015: Charles Fishman, *Snow is the Poem Without Flags*
5. Judges for 2015 included: Cherie Federico, Editor of Aesthetica Magazine; Arifa Akbar, literary editor of *The Independent* and *inewspapers*; poet and Professor Dr Oz Hardwick; and a reading panel including: Rob O'Connor, Creative Writing Tutor at the University of York, Centre for Lifelong Learning; Stephen Toase whose work is published extensively and who has been a judge for Leeds Writers' Circle, Harrogate Writers' Circle and York Writers awards; Dr Abi Curtis, Head of Programme for Creative Writing at York St John University; and Naomi Booth, Lecturer in Creative Writing and English Literature at York St John University
6. Partners and sponsors include Christin Green Authors' Agent, Apples and Snakes, Bloodaxe Books and Vintage.
7. The Aesthetica Creative Writing Award is now open for entries. Poems can be up to 40 lines each, short fiction entries can be up to 2,000 words each. Deadline for submissions is 31 August 2015. For full guidelines and to enter visit www.aestheticamagazine.com/creativewriting

For quotes, images and interviews please contact Alexandra Beresford on 0044 (0)1904 629 137 or email alexandra@aestheticamagazine.com

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