



**THE GRIFFIN TRUST
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***The Quotations of Bone*
by Norman Dubie**

and

***Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent*
by Liz Howard**

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WIN THE 2016 GRIFFIN POETRY PRIZE

TORONTO – Thursday, June 2, 2016 – *The Quotations of Bone* by Norman Dubie and *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent* by Liz Howard are the International and Canadian winners of the 2016 Griffin Poetry Prize. They each received C\$65,000 in prize money.

The Griffin Poetry Prize was founded in 2000 to encourage and celebrate excellence in poetry. The prize is for first edition books of poetry written in, or translated into, English and submitted from anywhere in the world.

The awards ceremony, attended by some 325 invited guests, was held in the Fermenting Cellar in The Distillery Historic District. Scott Griffin, founder of the prize, and trustees Mark Doty, Carolyn Forché, Michael Ondaatje, Robin Robertson, Karen Solie and David Young hosted the event where the guests enjoyed readings by Adam Zagajewski, The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry's 2016 Lifetime Recognition Award recipient, and a recitation of "I am the People, the Mob" by Carl Sandburg, by the 2016 Bilingual Champion of Poetry In Voice/Les voix de la poésie, Marie Foolchand.

The judges for the 2016 Griffin Poetry Prize are Alice Oswald (UK), Tracy K. Smith (US) and Adam Sol (Canada). These distinguished writers and poets each read 633 books of poetry, received from 43 countries around the globe, including 25 translations. The trustees of The Griffin Trust For Excellence In Poetry select the judges annually.



The 2016 Griffin Poetry Prize shortlist features four International and three Canadian poetry collections:

- Norman Dubie's *The Quotations of Bone*, published by Copper Canyon Press
- Joy Harjo's *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, published by W. W. Norton & Company
- Don Paterson's *40 Sonnets*, published by Faber and Faber
- Rowan Ricardo Phillips' *Heaven*, published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux

- Per Brask's and Patrick Friesen's translation from the Danish of *Frayed Opus for Strings & Wind Instruments* by Ulrikka S. Gernes, published by Brick Books
- Liz Howard's *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent*, published by McClelland & Stewart
- Soraya Peerbaye's *Tell: poems for a girlhood*, published by Pedlar Press

On June 1 the poets read excerpts from their books at the Shortlist Readings for 1,000 people in Toronto in Koerner Hall at The Royal Conservatory, TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning. Trustee Robin Robertson presented each poet with a leather-bound edition of their book and a \$10,000 honorarium for their participation in the Readings.

The Griffin Poetry Prize Anthology: A Selection of the 2016 Shortlist, edited by Adam Sol and published by House of Anansi Press, is now available at most retail bookstores and [online](#). Royalties generated from the anthologies, published annually, are donated to UNESCO's World Poetry Day that was created to support linguistic diversity through poetic expression and to offer endangered languages the opportunity to be heard in their communities.

For further information please contact:

Press:

Melissa Shirley, Publicist

Email: publicity@griffinpoetryprize.com

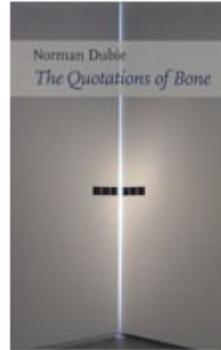
General Inquiries:

Ruth Smith, Executive Director

Email: info@griffinpoetryprize.com



2016 International Winner



***The Quotations of Bone* • Norman Dubie**
Copper Canyon Press

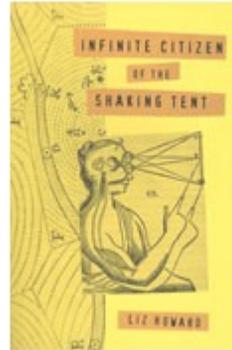
Judges' Citation: “The poems in Dubie’s newest collection are deeply oneiric, governed by vigorous leaping energy that brings the intimate into contact with history, and blurs the distinction between what is real because it once happened, and what is real because of the emphatic manner in which it has been felt. Longtime admirers of Dubie will certainly recognize the familiar mind and spirit able to punch through the surface of experience and into deep psychic quandary with a single revelatory gesture (“Did you ever want to give someone // All your money?”)—but that tendency is greatly amplified here. One feels the unconscious mind working ceaselessly, even playfully, alongside memory, imparting the poems as if with a strange and consoling living spirit. This makes for a heightened sense of mystery and mortality in poems of private experience. And when such an impulse is aligned with public history—the division of Germany, say, or the acceleration of the planet’s ecological crisis—it is outright haunting. Dubie’s uncontested mastery of the lyric poem has, in this collection, broken into strange and revelatory territory.”

Biography: Norman Dubie is a Regents professor at Arizona State University. A practitioner of Tibetan Buddhism whose work has been translated into thirty languages, Dubie has been the poetry editor for *The Iowa Review* and the director of the graduate poetry workshop at the University of Iowa. Regularly published in *The New Yorker* and other magazines, Dubie is a highly regarded and widely anthologized poet. He has won the Bess Hokin Award of the Modern Poetry Association and fellowships from The Ingram Merrill Foundation, The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. He lives in Tempe, Arizona.

Summary: In his twenty ninth collection of poems, Norman Dubie offers a rich, colour-soaked vision of the world. Strangeness becomes a parable for compassion, each poem leading the reader to an uncommon way of understanding human capacities. In the futuristic sphere of *The Quotations of Bone*, the mind wanders meditatively into an imaginative and uncontainable history.



2016 Canadian Winner



***Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent* • Liz Howard**
McClelland & Stewart

Judges' Citation: “With penetrating intelligence and playful musicality, Liz Howard’s ambitious debut collection keeps us delightfully off-balance with its mix of lyricism and experiment, allusion and invention. In her efforts ‘to dream a science that would name me,’ Howard explores a dizzying array of texts and landscapes, from Dante to Erin Mouré, from logging camps to high school dances. But for a poet so attuned to the self as ‘a fictive province,’ we are all ‘infinite citizens,’ constructed of dredged materials and fraught histories. Howard is capable of thrilling leaps of language, repurposing Longfellow’s *Song of Hiawatha* or imagining an oddly tender childhood memory of a ‘boreal swing’ made from the carcass of a moose. These poems are filled with energy and magic, suspended between competing inheritances, at home in their hyper-modern hybridity. *Infinite Citizen of the Shaking Tent* confronts its legacies with vivid imagery and crackling language, and introduces us to a bold, original poetic voice.”

Biography: Liz Howard was born and raised in northern Ontario. She received an Honours Bachelor of Science with High Distinction from the University of Toronto. Her poetry has appeared on Canadian literary journals such as *The Capilano Review*, *The Puritan*, and *Matrix Magazine*. Her chapbook *Skullambient* was shortlisted for the 2012 bpNichol Chapbook Award. She recently completed an MFA in Creative Writing through the University of Guelph and works as a research officer in cognitive psychology at the University of Toronto.

Summary: In Liz Howard’s wild, scintillating debut, the mechanisms we use to make sense of our worlds—even our direct intimate experiences of it—come under constant scrutiny and a pressure that feels like love. What Howard can accomplish with language strikes us as electric, a kind of alchemy of perception and catastrophe, fidelity and apocalypse. The waters of northern Ontario shield country are the toxic origin and an image of potential. A subject, a woman, a consumer, a polluter; an erotic force, a confused brilliance, a very necessary form of urgency—are all loosely tethered together and made somehow to resonate with our own devotions and fears; made “to be small and dreaming parallel / to ceremony and decay.”