



The Blake Poetry Prize

The Blake Poetry Prize challenges Australian poets to explore the spiritual and religious in a new work of 100 lines or less.

From 2017 Liverpool City Library, in partnership with Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre, will deliver The Blake Poetry Prize as a biennial event. Liverpool City Library and Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre will maintain the guiding principles of The Blake Poetry Prize in continuing to engage contemporary poets, both national and international, in conversations concerning faith, spirituality, religion, hope, humanity, social justice, belief and non-belief. The Blake Poetry Prize is an aesthetic means of exploring the wider experience of spirituality with the visionary imagining of contemporary poets.

The Blake Prize takes its name from William Blake, a poet and artist of undoubted genius, who integrated religious and artistic content in his work. The Blake Poetry Prize challenges contemporary poets of disparate styles to explore the spiritual and religious in a new work of 100 lines or less.

The Blake Poetry Prize is strictly non-sectarian. The entries are not restricted to works related to any faith or any artistic style, but all poems entered must have a recognisable religious or spiritual integrity.

**LIVERPOOL
CITY
LIBRARY**

**CASULA
POWERHOUSE
ARTS CENTRE**

Judges

Maxine Beneba Clarke

Maxine Beneba Clarke is a widely published Australian writer of Afro-Caribbean descent and the author of the poetry collections *Gil Scott Heron Is on Parole* and *Nothing Here Needs Fixing*. Maxine's short fiction, non-fiction and poetry have been published in numerous publications including *Overland*, *The Age*, *Meanjin*, *The Saturday Paper* and *The Big Issue*. Maxine's memoir *The Hate Race* and her first children's picture book *The Patchwork Bike* were published in 2016. Her collection *Carrying The World* won the 2017 Victorian Premier's Literary Award prize for poetry.

Ali Cobby Eckermann

Ali Cobby Eckermann is the author of the poetry collections *Little Bit Long Time* and *Inside My Mother* and the memoir *Too Afraid to Cry*. Her verse novel, *Ruby Moonlight*, won the Kuril Dhagun Indigenous Writing Fellowship, the Kenneth Slessor Prize for Poetry and was awarded the Book of the Year at the NSW Premier's Literary Awards in 2013. Ali was born on Kurna Country, and grew up on Ngadjuri country South Australia and her mob is Yankunytjatjara from north-west South Australia. In 2017, Ali received one of the world's richest literary awards, the Windham-Campbell Prize, administered by Yale University.

Mark Tredinnick

Mark Tredinnick, winner of the Montreal Poetry Prize (2011) and the Cardiff Poetry Prize (2012), is the author of *The Blue Plateau*, *Fire Diary*, and nine other acclaimed works of poetry and prose. Mark won the inaugural Blake Prize for Poetry in 2009. His work has also won the Queensland and WA Premier's Literary Awards, and been shortlisted for the Prime Minister's Literary Award. In 2016, Mark won the Australian Catholic University's Poetry Prize for his poem *The Horse*. Two new collections of Mark's poems will be published in 2017.

Entry Form

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL

POEM TITLE

YOUR 11 DIGIT ENTRY FEE PAYMENT CONFIRMATION NUMBER

SIGNATURE

DATE

Entry Fee and Payment

1. Each entry will incur a fee. **\$20 per poem submitted.** Maximum of 5 poems permitted per person.
2. Each poem must be accompanied by an individual entry form and entry fee. The form must be separate from the poem and list the entrant's name, address, contact details and the title of the poem.
3. All transactions with CPAC will appear on bank statements as Liverpool City Council
4. **Payment is to be made prior to submitting your application.** Payment can be made by the following methods:
 - a. Phone +61 2 9824 1121
 - b. Online www.casulapowerhouse.com/booknow
5. Please quote your 11 digit confirmation number on your application.
6. Liverpool City Council reserves the right to quote extracts from the poems, but not to exceed the 'fair dealing' provisions of the Copyright Act, to promote the Blake Poetry Prize. This is separate from the arrangement to print winning and commended poems on Council websites and publications.
7. The winning, commended and shortlisted poems will be announced 29 September.
8. Shortlisted entrants will be notified by email or post.
9. Results will be published on the Liverpool City Library, Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and Liverpool City Council websites.
10. Fees are non-refundable.
11. The judges' decision will be final and no correspondence about the results will be entered into.

Conditions of Entry

1. Entries must have a religious or spiritual element. Note the words 'religion' or 'spiritual' do not have to appear in the poems.
2. Poems must be in English and be the original work of entrants.
3. Poems or suites of poems must be of 100 lines or fewer (Including sub-headings and epigraphs but not including titles or spaces between the lines) and may be in any style.
4. Poems must be unpublished (including on any website or blog), must not have won any other competition, and must not be under consideration by any publisher, literary journal or for any other prize.
5. Entrants must be citizens or permanent residents of Australia.
6. Staff of Liverpool City Council and family or relatives of the judges cannot enter.
7. Entrants using pseudonyms must clearly state this fact on the entry form, which must also include the artist's real name.
8. Entrant names must not appear on any page of the work.
9. **Poems may be sent by email to blakepoetryprize@casulapowerhouse.com or hard copies may be submitted to:**
The Blake Poetry Prize
c/- Liverpool City Library
ATTN: Outreach Programs Coordinator
Locked Bag 7170
Liverpool BC NSW 1871
Entries must be post-marked on or before Friday 2 June 2017 to be deemed eligible.