



February 9, 2015
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BEYOND BAROQUE LITERARY ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES
THE WINNERS OF ITS FIFTH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST!**

Now in its fifth year, the 2014 the Beyond Baroque Poetry Contest was judged by award-winning poet, educator and editor, David St. John. Over 850 entries were submitted to the contest, which is open to poets nationwide. Each winner receives a cash prize: first place \$1000; second place \$500; and third place receives \$250. In addition to the three top prizes, five runner-ups were also chosen. The winners and runners-up are chosen by a blind reading process and the judge does not know the authors of the poems. Judge David St. John had this to say about his selections (before he knew who the authors were, the winners names were included at a later date):

“First, I would like to thank everyone who entered this year’s poetry contest sponsored by Beyond Baroque. The entries seemed to me especially notable this year, with a marvelous stylistic range and deeply powerful concerns. I was expecting perhaps to recognize at least one or two poets in the group but, in fact, I recognized no one’s poems in the very large selection of work that I was sent. I still do not know, as I write this, who the winners and runners-up for the contest are. So, I have chosen to write this note knowing only the poems I have selected, and not the names of the poets themselves. Here are the results:

First Place Winner, TINY SHOTGUN (by Ruth Madievsky, Studio City, CA): This poem is a muscular and visceral meditation on the shifting self in a mutable, often stark daily world. The poet is a superb maker of images, similes, and metaphors-- yet it is the demotic strength and power of the voice here—from first line to last—that makes this poem my first choice.

Second Place Winner, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIGHTNING AND LIGHTNING BUG (by Marci Vogel, Culver City, CA): This tiny miracle of a prose poem illustrates the difference between “prose” and “prose poetry,” which is to say that this is, in fact, a poem and not prose. Though slyly offering a conversational appearance, this delicate lyric poem is like a piece of origami slowly unfolding before the reader.

Third Place Winner, INVENTORY (by Steve McDonald, Murrieta, CA): This elegant and graceful piece reflects an individual taking stock of his or her life, all the while considering the details of the divine that surface in our daily experience. The more I read this poem the more honeycombed with sadness it became for me, and the more I loved it.

Let me list now the five wonderful runners-up that also rose to top of this year’s contest. They are stylistically varied and each is remarkable and compelling in its own way. My hope is that you will enjoy discovering these winning poems and the marvelous runners-up as much as I did.

Runners-up in alphabetical listing of the poem's title:

THE CONSOLATION (by Heather Altfeld, Chico, CA)
LULLABY IN A FOREIGN TONGUE (by Frankie Drayus, Los Angeles, CA)
THE SOUNDS OF THE CITY (by Phoebe MacAdams, Pasadena, CA)
SUMMER FRUIT (by Lusine Makarosyan, North Hollywood, CA)
VAGRANT (by Margaret Stawowy, Novato, CA)

My thanks to all of the poets who entered and who made this year's contest such an exciting event."

A reading of the winning poems will be held at Beyond Baroque, as part of National Poetry Month, on Saturday, April 25, at 8:00 PM, and the event will be hosted by this year's judge, David St. John.

The Sixth Annual Beyond Baroque Poetry Contest will open May 1, 2015 and close September 1, 2015. The judge will be announced in April, 2015. There is a \$20 reading fee for each four poems submitted. The judge will be announced May 1, 2015. For more information please email specialevents@beyondbaroque.org

Beyond Baroque is one of the United States' leading independent Literary Arts Centers and public spaces dedicated to literary and cultural performance, outreach, and community building. Founded in 1968, and based in the Old Town Hall in Venice Beach, California, the Center houses a bookstore, archive, gallery and theater. The Center offers weekly readings, art exhibitions, and free workshops - all inspired by, and in the service of, the literary arts. Beyond Baroque is located at 681 Venice Boulevard, in Venice Beach, California, on the beautiful Pacific Coast.

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