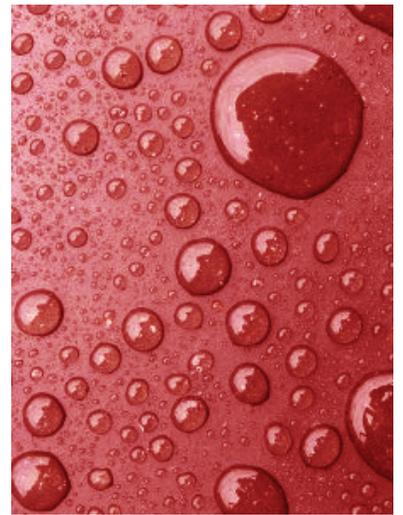


SEMIFINALISTS, 2025 *Red Wheelbarrow* Poetry Prize

Erin Aube	"I Love You the Way Spinach Cooks Down"
Sébastien Luc Butler	"Craw"
Sébastien Luc Butler	"Evensong"
Russell Colver	"Little Bighorn, June 2024"
Justin D'Alesandro	"Uncles"
Justin D'Alesandro	"Lorca in Love"
Delicia Daniels	"Sonya Massey"
Dawn Dupler	"Portrait of Hometown as Foxhole"
Dawn Dupler	"No Hard Rain"
Robbie Gamble	"Jury Pool"
Benjamin Grossberg	"I Tempt My Octopus Lover onto Land"
Benjamin Grossberg	"I Bring My Octopus Lover to the Aquarium"
Benjamin Grossberg	"My Octopus Lover Criticizes Me"
Ian Hall	"Elegy for JOANN Fabrics"
Sandra Chavez Johnson	"Brujería"
Sandra Chavez Johnson	"Things I Could Not Forget"
Kurt Luchs	"Lucy Looking Up"
JoAnneMcFarland	"Steady"
Melissa McKinstry	"Once Opened"
Melissa McKinstry	"Personal Ad"
Emily Pease	"Veer"
Rebecca Pyle	"A Quilt Too Terrible, Beautiful, to Make"
Michele Parker Randall	"Mother Lode"
Kimberly Sailor	"Hardwoods"
Ravi Shankar	"Erased Pantoum"
Clara Strong	"Sunfish"
Lee Varon	"Nightmare"
Lee Varon	"Before Internet Dating"
Lee Varon	"Dating with Disabilities"
Joyce Victor	"A Sister's Last Visit"
Donald Wesling	"Monarch Chrysalis Case"



WINNER BIOGRAPHIES

1st Prize, "Veer"

Emily Pease holds an MFA in Fiction from the Warren Wilson MFA Program for Writers. Her short story collection, *Let Me Out Here*, won the C. Michael Curtis Short Story Book Prize at Hub City Press in 2018, including stories that appeared in *Witness*, *Shenandoah*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *Narrative*, and elsewhere. Her poems appear in *Juniper*, *One*, *Rattle* (Ekphrastic Challenge winner, June 2021), *Florida Review*, *Litmosphere*, and *Asheville Poetry Review*.

2nd Prize, "Mother Lode"

Michele Parker Randall is the author of *Museum of Everyday Life* and *A Future Unmappable*. Her works can also be found in *Atlanta Review*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Poetica Review*, *SWWIM*, and elsewhere. She feels strongly that embracing work by and about the neurodivergent will lessen the stigma surrounding mental illness.

3rd Prize, "Once Opened"

Melissa McKinstry hosts quarterly poetry and jazz evenings and curates a community Poet Tree in San Diego. Her poetry appears in many journals including *Beloit*, *Adroit*, and *Best New Poets 2023*, and has been selected for a 2026 Pushcart Prize. An *Adroit* Djanikian Scholar and the inaugural writer-in-residence at the Millay House Rockland, she currently serves on the Alumni Council for Pacific University's MFA program and the Board of the Millay House Rockland.

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Judge **Stephen Kuusisto** holds a "University Professorship" at Syracuse where he teaches across multiple disciplines and serves as the Director of the Burton Blatt Institute's interdisciplinary programs. He's the author of the memoirs *Planet of the Blind* (a "New York Times Notable Book"), *Eavesdropping: A Memoir of Blindness*, and *Listening*, as well as *Have Dog, Will Travel: A Poet's Journey*. His previous collections of poems include *Only Bread, Only Light*, *Letters to Borges*, and *Old Horse, What is to Be Done?*—and a new collection, *Close Escapes* is just out from Copper Canyon Press.