

EMBARGOED UNTIL Wednesday 15 November 2017



Dorothy Hewett. Image A. T. Bolton courtesy of the National Library of Australia.

THE 2018 DOROTHY HEWETT AWARD SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

The Monthly

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The judges of the 2018 Dorothy Hewett Award for an Unpublished Manuscript are delighted to announce the five shortlisted writers. They are:

- ‘Lunation’, by Teresa Bell (New South Wales; fiction). ‘Lunation’, a novel in 72 frames, plays with representation and ambiguities and is dedicated to *those who we lock up*. Stylistically, it is an ambitious work that never leaves behind its human characters *in extremis*.
- ‘Some Sketchy Notes on Matter’, by Angela Gardner (Queensland; poetry). With a hovering intelligence and a laudable lack of ego, the beautifully controlled poems of ‘Some Sketchy Notes on Matter’ investigate the world with an ecstatic’s eye.
- ‘Everything as Perfect as a Bird’, by Kate Gordon (Tasmania; fiction). ‘Everything as Perfect as a Bird’ circles around fundamentalist Christian communities, gender and its restrictive settings alongside potential fluidities, and the life of artists in colonies and other collaborative arrangements to tell an intriguing story of a young woman entering adulthood.
- ‘Thistledown Seed’, by Louise Helfgott (Western Australia; fiction). This ambitious manuscript containing both fiction and memoir in multiple threads, follows the displacement and violence of the Holocaust for a Polish family that subsequently settles in Western Australia.
- ‘Legacy’, by Julie Watts (Western Australia; poetry). ‘Legacy’ holds a delicate strength both in form and subject. These are poems that reflect, with grace, honesty and a sometimes unnerving directness, on the complex interconnections of contemporary life.

The shortlisted entries were chosen from ninety-nine submissions. The judges of the 2018 award are Lucy Dougan, poet and niece of Dorothy Hewett; James Ley, literary critic and Contributing Editor of *Sydney Review of Books*; and Terri-ann White, Director of UWA Publishing.

The winner will be announced at a ceremony at the 2018 Perth Writers Festival. The winner receives \$10,000 and a publishing contract with UWA Publishing.

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