

EMBARGOED UNTIL Friday December 13 2019



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

THE 2020 DOROTHY HEWETT AWARD SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED

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The judges of the 2020 Dorothy Hewett Award for an Unpublished Manuscript, in its fifth year, are delighted to announce the six shortlisted manuscripts. They are:

- *The Sorry Tale of the Mignonette* by Angela Gardner (Qld) Poetry
- *K. the Interpreter* by Martin Kovan (NSW) Fiction
- *Fish Work* by Caitlin Maling (WA) Poetry
- *Children of Lovers* by Kylie Mirmohamadi (Victoria) Fiction
- *The Rabbit Paperweight* by Robin Riedstra (NSW) Fiction
- *Where the Fruit Falls* by Karen Wyld (South Australia) Fiction

The Award this year was competitive. The six shortlisted manuscripts were selected from a pool of more than 200 entries. The successful entries revealed themselves as all having strong potential for publication. Together, the three judges approached the shortlisted works with an admiration for the execution of ideas through language, as well as the long haul of extending initial ideas through to a final work with an integrity of purpose.

The shortlist:

The Sorry Tale of the Mignonette by Angela Gardner (Qld) Poetry

This dramatic verse novel depicts the best and worst aspects of human nature in extremis. The story of a nineteenth-century sea journey to Australia that goes badly, its characters are clearly drawn, holding their own through sea shanties, street ballads and other modes of storytelling from another time.

K. the Interpreter by Martin Kovan (NSW) Fiction

K. the Interpreter is an ambitious novel with echoes of Kafka and Coetzee, set against the backdrop of an inequitable globalised world, and rendered in a lean and efficient prose style. An exploration of the consequences of war, displacement, racism and religious conflict, it addresses some of the most urgent and intractable issues of our time, registering with particular acuity the ways in which women are apt to become the victims of violent conflict.



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Fish Work by Caitlin Maling (WA) Poetry

Fish Work is a suite of poems containing various modes and registers of expression. The collection circles around the theme of the ocean and all of its occupants, alongside a life researching this ecology and closely observing people and place during field work. It is an intriguing exploration of the multitude of being in the world.

Children of Lovers by Kylie Mirmohamadi (Victoria) Fiction

This novel is an intimate account of yearning for belonging by an adoptee without a prehistory. It follows a country girl starting university in a city and creating her own community through that yearning. In this narrative, she enters into a migrant community she believes she has an affinity through a bloodline with, and this underpins the dynamic of the novel.

The Rabbit Paperweight by Robin Riedstra (NSW) Fiction

The Rabbit Paperweight is a creative and deeply thoughtful response to the classic children's story *Alice in Wonderland* and the morally dubious life of its author Lewis Carroll. Set in an Australian psychiatric institution, the novel is alert to the trauma that often lies behind madness, drawing the reader's attention back to the sinister realities that can lurk beneath the seductive charms of the fantastical.

Where the Fruit Falls by Karen Wyld (South Australia) Fiction

Where the Fruit Falls is a novel that gives voice to three generations of Indigenous women determined to restore broken connections with Country. In richly textured storytelling, this writing celebrates the agency of Indigenous women to traverse ever-present landscapes of colonisation and intergenerational trauma, against a backdrop of remarkable desert and coastal scenes.

The judges for the 2020 award are Terri-ann White, Director UWA Publishing; Elfie Shiosaki, Lecturer in the School of Indigenous Studies at The University of Western Australia; and James Ley, author and contributing editor of Sydney Review of Books.

A ceremony will take place on Friday 21 February 2020 in Perth to announce the winner of the Award and the winning manuscript will be published in October 2020.

The Dorothy Hewett Award is open to all writers who have completed a manuscript and are seeking publication. The work must be fiction, narrative nonfiction or poetry, inclusive of hybrid genres such as verse novels or memoir. The winner receives a cash prize of \$10,000, courtesy of Copyright Agency, and a publishing contract with UWA Publishing.

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