

The SecondBite Poetry Competition:

Anne Carson is the proud founder of the SecondBite Poetry Competition. In conjunction with SecondBite and Australian Poetry she is thrilled to present this Australia-wide competition, offered in 2014 for the first time. The competition seeks to bring together a number of complementary goals:

It seeks to promote the food rescue charity SecondBite – raising funds and awareness of the issues they tackle – the appalling food waste in Australia at the same time as the plight of people who are food insecure.

It also seeks to raise the awareness of Australian poetry, showcasing excellence and originality and highlighting the potential of poetry as a means to discuss critical social issues – in this case food.

The competition will open on February 14th 2014 and will close on May 30th. A first prize of \$5,000 and 2 runner-up prizes of \$500 will be offered. Three highly respected and acclaimed writers have generously agreed to donate their services as judges. Poets Judith Beveridge and Chris Wallace-Crabbe will prepare a shortlist and Gay Bilson, writer and retired restaurateur will join the judging panel after the shortlist is announced (on July 7th) to make the final decision of winning and runner-up entries. An awards event will be held at the end of July where the winner will be announced.

More information from:

<http://secondbite.org/>

<http://www.australianpoetry.org/>

www.annemcarson.com

... food is captured memorably, deliciously in my particular province – poetry. Seamus Heaney's crabapple jelly, Neruda's watermelon whales, Allison Croggin's voluptuous vegetables, and the bite of Carol Ann Duffy's onion ... it gives license to be sensual, symbolic, to string the work with multiple meanings and associations ... redolent of life and vigour, of nourishment but it is also chthonic, evoking the below-ground domain – the earth from which we all come and the shadowy nether regions where food is grown and to which we will return.

Then there is food's twin – hunger ... I don't know what the claw in the belly is like – have never experienced how hunger must gnaw at your mind as well as in your body.

From the essay by Anne Carson on the origin of the prize published on The Blue Corner (blog of Going Down Swinging)

<http://goingdownswinging.org.au/site/food-for-thought-the-birth-of-the-secondbite-poetry-prize/>