

The 2023 Hopwood Awards Program Contest Winners

The Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Awards in Creative Writing

Hopwood Drama

First Place	Francisco Fiori for “Tissue Queen”
Second Place	Clare Sahijdak for “The Stranger”
Third Place	Donovan Rogers for “Into the Light of the Dark, Black Night”
Fourth Place	Karis Clark for “Kush Man vs. The Man”
Fifth Place	Maeson Linnert for “Where Orion Went”
Finalists	Olivia Cheng for “A Battle That Cannot Be Won” Nathaniel Sheehan for “Bridge at the Close” Brian Gyamfi for “Everything Now”

Hopwood Screenplay

First Place	Aidan Harris for “The Derech”
Second Place	Morgan Kisner for “I’m Not a Bad Person”
Third Place	Azul Cibils Blaquier for “Violet”
Fourth Place	Nicole Winthrop for “Boys and Husbands”
Finalists	Dominic Tatrai for “Imaginary” Eliana Kraut for “Fugue” Paul Legallet for “I Love You” Lily Price for “Rules for Love”

Hopwood Novel

First Place	Yueyi Zhao for “Underspin”
Second Place	Zoe Carpenter for “The Church of Great Rain”
Third Place	Juliette Snyder for “The Crooked Doors”
Fourth Place	Jeffrey Chin for “Newyorkland”
Fifth Place	Amitai Ben-Abba for “Binary Exile”

Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

First Place	Brian Gyamfi for “Praxis of Breath”
Second Place	Arro Mandell for “God I just want to talk”
Finalists	Maia Elsner for “Gallery Opening” Jordan Hamel for “Tall Timber – a poetic sequence” Ebenezer Agu for “Journal Entry” Michael O’Ryan for “Against Sequence” Amanda Hayes for “Nudibranch” Diepreye Amanah for “Hair Like Wildflowers” Courtney DuChene for “Allotment” A Shaikh for “Ordinary Sadness”

Hopwood Poetry

First- and Second-Year Undergraduate

First Place	Allison Wei for “Fish Head”
Second Place	Isabella Crow for “I CAN’T EAT THAT”
Third Place	Ariel Litwak for “Musings of a Semester”
Fourth Place	Rory Graham for “Cookbooks and Cowboys: Poems of Home”

Undergraduate

First Place (tie)	Jingqi Zhu for “Candle Tears” Caroline Knight for “Rainbow Trout, Mimic”
Second Place	Ruby Lewis for “Oregon Devotions”
Third Place	Nicole Tooley for “Blueprints for Breaking”
Fourth Place	Jessica Hsu for “Organic Hunger”
Finalists	Yixin Yang for “Eight Poems” Talya Soyatas for “Desiderium: Nature and the Heart”

Graduate

First Place	Sara Abou Rashed for “Cycle”
Second Place	Ebenezer Agu for “The First Book of Revelations”
Third Place (tie)	Michael O’Ryan for “Desire & Faithlessness in Autumn” Martha Paz Soldan for “All the Cowboys are Dead”
Fourth Place	Claudia Creed for “Girl becomes a raven becomes a crow”
Fifth Place	Amanda Hayes for “Cnidaria”
Finalist	Courtney DuChene for “Graduate Poetry Prize Submission”

Hopwood Fiction

First- and Second-Year Undergraduate

First Place	Lucy Del Deo for “Letting Go in the Water”
Second Place	Alice Lee for “Objects in the Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear”
Third Place	Isabela Kellogg for “Gladys and Her Charms”
Fourth Place	Neha Nedumaran for “Adrift” and “Gold Fever”
Fifth Place	Sara Wong for “Eleanor’s Home for Lonely Ghosts”

Undergraduate

First Place	Ashvin Pai for “Feeding Rocks”
Second Place	Jessica Kwon for “Ghost Stories” and “Episodes”
Third Place	Nina Smith for “God and Walter Cronkite” and “Strange Music”
Fourth Place	Chelsea Padilla for “The Pensionado”
Finalists	Maya Kadouh for “A New Season” Paz Regueiro for “With Love, the Conclusion of Your Efforts” and “boyface” Derek Weinstock for “That’s Love,” “Lady Camp, Briars Point” and “Topanga Trail Song”

Graduate

First Place	Zoe Carpenter for “Teeth” and “Stone Fruit”
Second Place	Sarah Anderson for “Two Stories: Somebody Said & Self Care”
Third Place	Kabelo Motsoeneng for “A Notable Man” & “I Will Stay With You”
Fourth Place	Afsheen Raza Faisal for “Creep,” “Cats,” and “Ladies’ Night”
Fifth Place	Sara Gee for “What They Don’t Tell You” & “The First Six Sessions Are Free”
Finalists	Marne Litfin for “Daisies” and “The Steeplechase” Oksana Briukhovetska for “Secrets for Natasha”

Hopwood Nonfiction

First- and Second-Year Undergraduate

First Place	Isabela Kellogg for “Confessions of Child Who Loved the Learning Channel (Sorry, Mom)”
Second Place	Nicole Kodkany for “She Turns to Pull Me In”
Third Place (tie)	Fiona McCole for “Are You Alright?” Hannah Chang for “Beauty of the Afternoon” and “Shades of Green”

Undergraduate

First Place (tie)	Sisir Potluri for “Mountain of Gold” and “Winter” Eli Friedman for “A Funny Thing: An Essay Collection”
Second Place	Elya Kaplan for “Homegoing”
Third Place	Olivia Kulawiak for “Fifth Take”
Fourth Place	Elizabeth Blackwell for “Three Essays on Adulthood”
Fifth Place	Steve Liu for “Waves, Chess, and Snow”
Finalist	Laine Kibler for “The Window Opens”

Graduate

First Place	Maia Elsner for “Colors of Mourning”
Second Place	Sahara Sidi for “Notes on Purity” “I’m Not No Jennica”
Third Place	Sean Julia Civalo for “A Cloud in the Shape of a Woman”
Fourth Place	Joshua Olivier for “Everyone’s Asking About You”
Finalists	Patricia Jewell for “Deerborne” Mark Byrk for “Bubby” Ana Kornblum-Laudi for “Home is Far From Here”

Additional Contests

Academy of American Poets Prize

Graduate Division	Diepreye Amanah for “OF”
Undergraduate Division	Yixin Yang for “My mother once said”

Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund

Winner	Camille Nagy for “Reptilian: A ‘Tail’ of Transformation and Rebirth”
Finalist	Yumna Dagher for “Calfheart Poems”

Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize

A Shaikh for “cento sealed into crushed objecthood”

Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

First Place	Safura Syed for “Atoms at the Edge of Darkness”
Second Place	Derek Weinstock for “That’s Love”

David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

First Place Ella Kethledge for “The Phenomenon of Social Illness: From Dancing Plagues to Dancing Apps”
Second Place Oluwakemi Falodun for “What happens when you lose your sense of reality?”

Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize

Caroline Maier for “The Last Goodbye”

Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry

First Place Jessica Hsu for “Buried Home”
Second Place Salem Loucks for “Oh Dear Life (a prayer)”
Third Place Cecilia Ledezma for “Bark / Bite”
Fourth Place Nicholas Currie for “Skin”

Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing

Macy Goller for “King of Pearls”
Tomi Drucker for “Lia’s Lens”
Azul Cibils Blaquier for “Violet”

Keith Taylor Excellence in Poetry Award

First Place Safa Hijazi for “Let Us Get Lost in the Valleys”
Second Place Emilia Ferrante for “there exist many kinds of ghosts”

Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry

Yumna Dagher for “When the Angels Left”
Zora Kwasnik for “Patrick Bateman Embarrasses Himself In Front of Tom Cruise NOT CLICKBAIT”

Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry

Courtney DuChene for “Home Movie, Director’s Cut, and Experimental Film as Burning Haibun”

Peter Phillip Pratt Award in Fiction

First Place Jamila Alasady for “Mama, Mama”
Second Place Alex Kim for “The Rat King”

Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

Ann Arbor

First Place Jessica Kwon for “Ghost Stories”
Second Place Margaret Brice for “Three Short Stories: Becoming A Man, The D’Etrangers: A Historical Report, The Biancas”
Third Place Sarah Ong for “Happiest: the years, days, hours / by a human / pressing leaves”
Fourth Place Nicole Winthrop for “Boys and Husbands”
Fifth Place Neyya Ramprasad for “The Sun and Other Murderous Entities” and “Remembering You”

Dearborn

Kelly Turner for “Wooden Boxes”

Flint

Jina Bhagat for “Blue”

Text/Image Composition Prize

First Place	Bryce Worthing for “The Shark Below is a Portal; and Other Dream Interpretations”
Second Place	Maia Elsner for “Sketching at edges”
Finalist	Marne Litfin for “Excerpt from “The 35 Year Plan””
Finalist	Macy Goller for “The Adventures of Fareed”

Additional Awards

These awards and prizes are “add-ons” to Hopwood Award contests.

Andrea Beauchamp Prize

Zoe Carpenter for “Teeth” and “Stone Fruit”

Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing

Afsheen Raza Faisal for “Creep,” “Cats,” and “Ladies’ Night”
Sara Gee for “What They Don’t Tell You” & “The First Six Sessions Are Free”
Marne Litfin for “Daisies” and “The Steeplechase”
Oksana Briukhovetska for “Secrets for Natasha”

Dennis McIntyre Prize for Distinction in Undergraduate Playwriting

Francisco Fiori for “Tissue Queen”
Clare Sahijdak for “The Stranger”
Donovan Rogers for “Into the Light of the Dark, Black Night”
Karis Clark for “Kush Man vs. The Man”
Maeson Linnert for “Where Orion Went”

Geoffrey James Gosling Prize

Yueyi Zhao for “Underspin”

Helen J. Daniels Prize

Sisir Potluri for “Mountain of Gold” and “Winter”
Eli Friedman for “A Funny Thing: An Essay Collection”

Helen S. and John Wagner Prize

Sara Abou Rashed for “Cycle”

John Wagner Prize

Maia Elsner for “Colors of Mourning”

Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prize for Dramatic Writing

Aidan Harris for “The Derech”
Morgan Kisner for “I’m Not a Bad Person”
Azul Cibils Blaquier for “Violet”

Leonard and Eileen Newman Writing Prize for Fiction

Ashvin Pai for “Feeding Rocks”
Jessica Kwon for “Ghost Stories” and “Episodes”

Nina Smith for “God and Walter Cronkite” and “Strange Music”

Meador Family Award

Claudia Creed for “Girl becomes a raven becomes a crow”
Amanda Hayes for “Cnidaria”
Courtney DuChene for “Graduate Poetry Prize Submission”

Naomi Saferstein Literary Award

Aidan Harris for “The Derech”

Paul and Sonia Handleman Award

Jingqi Zhu for “Candle Tears”
Caroline Knight for “Rainbow Trout, Mimic”

Robert F. Haugh Prize

Ashvin Pai for “Feeding Rocks”

Roy and Helen Meador Award

Allison Wei for “Fish Head”

Stanley S. Schwartz Prize

Jessica Kwon for “Ghost Stories” and “Episodes”

The 2023 Hopwood Awards Contest Judges

Hopwood Drama

Preliminary Judges: Benjamin Benne, Angela Jackson-Brown
Final Judges: Jeffry Chastang, Anita Gonzalez

Hopwood Screenplay

Preliminary Judges: Miguel Alvarez, Dean Bakopoulos
Final Judges: Emily Jade Foley, Brett Neveu

Hopwood Novel

Preliminary Judges: Kalani Pickhart, Alexis Pride
Final Judges: Charles Baxter, Megan Giddings

Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

Preliminary Judge: Camille Rankine
Final Judge: Monica Youn

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Poetry

Ayokunke Falomo, Nadia Mota

Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Poetry

Preliminary Judges: Eduardo C. Corral, Paul Tran (Graduate)
Destiny O. Birdsong, Catherine Pierce (Undergraduate)

Final Judges: Stephanie Burt, Paisley Rekdal

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Fiction

Dur E Aziz, Lauren Morrow

Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Fiction

Preliminary Judges: Meron Hadero, Joseph Rein (Graduate)
Inez Tan, Meghan Louise Wagner (Undergraduate)

Final Judges: Dantil W. Moniz, Sequoia Nagamatsu

Hopwood First- and Second-Year Undergraduate Nonfiction

Drew Nelles, Matthew Wamser

Hopwood Graduate/Undergraduate Nonfiction

Preliminary Judges: Jaswinder Bolina, Mairead Small Stead (Graduate)
Rachel Ann Girty, Silas Hansen (Undergraduate)

Final Judges: Jia Tolentino, David Treuer

Academy of American Poets Prize, Bain-Swiggett Poetry Prize, Jeffrey L. Weisberg Memorial Prize in Poetry, Marjorie Rapaport Award in Poetry, Michael R. Gutterman Award in Poetry

Kemi Alabi, Tarik Dobbs

Arthur Miller Award of the University of Michigan Club of New York Scholarship Fund, Roy W. Cowden Memorial Fellowship

Eileen Pollack

Cora Duncan Award in Fiction

Catalina Bode

David Porter Award for Excellence in Journalism

Lindsay Kalter

Frank and Gail Beaver Script Writing Prize

Film, Television, and Media Faculty

Kasdan Scholarship in Creative Writing

Preliminary Judge: Frank Beaver
Final Judge: Kasdan Pictures

Keith Taylor Excellence in Poetry Award

Keith Taylor

Peter Philip Pratt Award in Fiction

Elinam Agbo

2023 Hopwood Committee

Meg Sweeney, Hopwood Director
Rebecca Manery, Hopwood Program Manager
Ghassan Abou-Zeineddine
Julie Buntin
Jim Burnstein
Jeremy Chamberlin
Dave Larsen
Aaron Stone
Laura Thomas
Cody Walker

Hopwood Program Staff

Rebecca Manery, Hopwood Program Manager
Emma Behrendt, Hopwood Program Assistant
Sarah Miles, Hopwood Program Assistant