The 2023 Hopwood Awards Program
Contest Winners
The Avery Hopwood and Jule Hopwood Awards in Creative Writing

### Hopwood Drama

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

### Hopwood Screenplay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Piece Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Aidan Harris</td>
<td>“The Derech”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Morgan Kisner</td>
<td>“I’m Not a Bad Person”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Azul Cibils Blaquier</td>
<td>“Violet”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Nicole Winthrop</td>
<td>“Boys and Husbands”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>Dominic Tatrai</td>
<td>“Imaginary”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eliana Kraut</td>
<td>“Fugue”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul Legallet</td>
<td>“I Love You”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lily Price</td>
<td>“Rules for Love”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hopwood Novel

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Piece Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Yueyi Zhao</td>
<td>“Underspin”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Zoe Carpenter</td>
<td>“The Church of Great Rain”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Juliette Snyder</td>
<td>“The Crooked Doors”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Jeffrey Chin</td>
<td>“Newyorkland”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>Amitai Ben-Abba</td>
<td>“Binary Exile”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hopwood Award Theodore Roethke Prize

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>Piece Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Brian Gyamfi</td>
<td>“Praxis of Breath”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Arro Mandell</td>
<td>“God I just want to talk”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>Maia Elsner</td>
<td>“Gallery Opening”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jordan Hamel</td>
<td>“Tall Timber – a poetic sequence”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ebenezer Agu</td>
<td>“Journal Entry”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Michael O’Ryan</td>
<td>“Against Sequence”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Amanda Hayes</td>
<td>“Nudibranch”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diepreye Amanah</td>
<td>“Hair Like Wildflowers”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Courtney DuChene</td>
<td>“Allotment”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A Shaikh</td>
<td>“Ordinary Sadness”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Hopwood Poetry

#### First- and Second-Year Undergraduate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>Allison Wei</td>
<td>“Fish Head”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>Isabella Crow</td>
<td>“I CAN’T EAT THAT”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>Ariel Litwak</td>
<td>“Musings of a Semester”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
<td>Rory Graham</td>
<td>“Cookbooks and Cowboys: Poems of Home”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Undergraduate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Place (tie)</td>
<td>Jingqi Zhu</td>
<td>“Candle Tears”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Place</td>
<td>Caroline Knight</td>
<td>“Rainbow Trout, Mimic”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Place</td>
<td>Ruby Lewis</td>
<td>“Oregon Devotions”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Place</td>
<td>Jessica Hsu</td>
<td>“Organic Hunger”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>Yixin Yang</td>
<td>“Eight Poems”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Graduate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
<td>Sara Abou Rashed</td>
<td>“Cycle”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Place</td>
<td>Ebenezer Agu</td>
<td>“The First Book of Revelations”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Place (tie)</td>
<td>Michael O’Ryan</td>
<td>“Desire &amp; Faithlessness in Autumn”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Place</td>
<td>Martha Paz Saldan</td>
<td>“All the Cowboys are Dead”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Place</td>
<td>Claudia Creed</td>
<td>“Girl becomes a raven becomes a crow”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalist</td>
<td>Amanda Hayes</td>
<td>“Cnidaria”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hopwood Fiction

#### First- and Second-Year Undergraduate

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

#### Undergraduate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
<td>Ashvin Pai</td>
<td>“Feeding Rocks”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Place</td>
<td>Jessica Kwon</td>
<td>“Ghost Stories” and “Episodes”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Place</td>
<td>Nina Smith</td>
<td>“God and Walter Cronkite” and “Strange Music”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Place</td>
<td>Chelsea Padilla</td>
<td>“The Pensionado”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>Paz Regueiro</td>
<td>“With Love, the Conclusion of Your Efforts” and “boyface”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Graduate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Place</td>
<td>Zoe Carpenter</td>
<td>“Teeth” and “Stone Fruit”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Place</td>
<td>Sarah Anderson</td>
<td>“Two Stories: Somebody Said &amp; Self Care”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Place</td>
<td>Kabelo Motsoeneng</td>
<td>“A Notable Man” &amp; “I Will Stay With You”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth Place</td>
<td>Afsheen Raza Faisal</td>
<td>“Creep,” “Cats,” and “Ladies’ Night”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth Place</td>
<td>Sara Gee</td>
<td>“What They Don’t Tell You” &amp; “The First Six Sessions Are Free”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finalists</td>
<td>Marne Litfin</td>
<td>“Daisies” and “The Steeplechase”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oksana Briukhovetska</td>
<td>“Secrets for Natasha”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 McCol 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  Ely Kaplans 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” | “Ion Know No Jennica”
Third Place  Sean Julia Civile 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 Writingun 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”
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  Neya 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

Afseehn 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”

**Meader 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