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2009 Poetry Contest Results

We received 183 entries this year and were impressed by the quality of so many. Our final judge, Minnie Bruce Pratt, selected the winner from a group of twelve manuscripts winnowed by first readers Tanya Olson, Andrea Selch, Susan Kirby-Smith, and Jennifer Snead.

- **We proudly announce the 2009 winner: Yvonne Murphy's *Aviaries*.**

Of Murphy's work, Pratt writes: "These exuberant poems leap through questionings into the connections and contradictions between art, desire, technology and nature. The poet says 'Discourse is not life—or is it?' and proceeds to balance on the power-line tightrope of an answer, to whirl us through the dizzying loop of William Ferris into the landscaped cage of a jazz-scattering Mona Lisa and always back to the contemporary streets, subway tracks, wild parrots, and blabbing, sighing, blissful, witnessing polyglot people of her New York. She invites us to enjoy the cyclonic rides of 'deliberate structure'; then she bends those thin bars and asks us to slip through with her to be part of a landscape that is mortality, and is eternity."

Yvonne C. Murphy is an Associate Professor of Cultural Studies at SUNY Empire State College in Old Westbury, New York. She received an M.A. from New York University, a Ph.D. from The University of Houston and a Wallace Stegner Fellowship in Poetry from Stanford University. Her poems have been published widely in U.S. and Canadian anthologies and journals, including *Poetry*, *Black Warrior Review*, *Literal Latte* and *Gulf Coast*, among many others. She lives in Queens, NY, with her husband and daughter.

- **Second-place: Michelle Detorie's *Feral Thing*.**

Of *Feral Thing*, Pratt writes: "This is a collection full of deeply inventive metaphor and witty language, of quick sensuous images and shimmering surfaces, invoking the physical body of 'woman.'"

- **Honorable Mention: Audrey Bohanon's *And Besides*.**

Pratt writes: "These poems linger in a rural community and landscape that is contemporary and conversational—and stretch that place into a universal eternal through the delicate, oblique, and strangely ordinary beauty of the poet's language."

The next contest is scheduled for fall, 2010. This will be for a first or second book of poetry. Please check our website in September for full submission guidelines.