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University of Pittsburgh Press author wins prestigious poetry prize

PITTSBURGH—Lynn Emanuel’s The Nerve of It: Poems New and Selected, published last year by the University of Pittsburgh Press, has won the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. The prestigious $25,000 award, given by the Academy of American Poets, recognizes the most outstanding book of poetry published in the United States in the previous year.

“This honor is a marvelous affirmation of one’s work,” said Emanuel, an English professor at the University of Pittsburgh. “When I look at the company I’m in, I feel humbled.”

Past recipients include Wanda Coleman, also published by the University of Pittsburgh Press; Mark Jarman, and Stanley Kunitz.

About Emanuel’s winning book, judges Amy Gerstler, Reginald Gibbons, and Kimiko Hahn said: “Every poem in The Nerve of It brims with unfailing invention and virtuoso wordcraft. This volume of new and selected poems is a beautifully integrated whole, the arc of a life: heady, bold, vivid, sexy, intensely envisioned, metaphorically brilliant. The Nerve of It is a witty and courageous body of work.”

Emanuel is also the author of Noose and Hook (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010); and The Dig (University of Illinois Press, 1992), which was selected by Gerald Stern for the National Poetry Series. Her honors include two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and a fellowship from the Civitella Ranieri Foundation. Emanuel has taught at Bennington College, Vermont College, and Warren Wilson College, among others.

Emanuel’s work has been featured in the Pushcart Prize Anthology and Best American Poetry numerous times and is included in The Oxford Book of American Poetry. She has been a judge for the National Book Awards.

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