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Winning Drue Heinz collection is a remarkable blend of prose and poetry

PITTSBURGH—Tina May Hall has been named the 2010 winner of the Drue Heinz Literature Prize, one of the nation's most prestigious awards for a book of short stories. Hall's manuscript, *The Physics of Imaginary Objects*, was selected from a field of nearly 350 entries by esteemed author and film critic Renata Adler. The book will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press this fall.

"This is a remarkable collection," Adler stated. "I am struck in particular by the range of imagination and the prose. The power, insistence, occasional humor, and frequent beauty of the author's voice carry the reader as surely as conventional fiction used to."

The 37-year-old Hall, born and raised in Arizona, resides in Clinton, New York, where she teaches English at Hamilton College.

The Physics of Imaginary Objects is a "miscellany of sorts, or a cabinet of curiosities," Hall explained. "The stories test how language determines being, how the body and words interact, how story can be tactical rather than strategic, and how the familiar might be made strange."

Hall's stories often take on the qualities of a poem, working with rhythm and negative space while trying to reconfigure narrative in terms of language and image. "What ties them all together, I hope, is the sense that just around the next indent, anything can happen," she commented.

Recalling her reaction to winning the DHLP, Hall said, "I was astounded and thrilled— and absolutely sure for about two weeks that someone would be calling me back to tell me they had made a terrible clerical error! I am truly honored to be included in such a wonderful list of writers and feel absolutely privileged to be part of the tradition of the Drue Heinz."

According to Hall, the Press's Ed Ochester called with the news on a Sunday night and asked if she had champagne on hand, which she did not. "I was, however, in the process of giving my two-year-old son a bath, so my husband and son and I danced around a bit and laughed and had a bubbly time of it anyway."

Hall received her undergraduate degree in creative writing from the University of Arizona, her MFA from Bowling Green State University and her PhD from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has been nominated three times for a Pushcart Prize. Her novella, *All the Day's Sad Stories*, was published as a chapbook by Caketrain Press in 2009.

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