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From: Progressive PR on behalf of *Australian Book Review*

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2018 *ABR* Peter Porter Poetry Prize shortlist

Australian Book Review is delighted to announce the shortlist for the **2018 Peter Porter Poetry Prize**. First presented in 2005, the Porter Prize is one of the world's leading prizes for a new poem. It is worth a total of \$8,500.

This year, our indefatigable judges – **John Hawke** (chair of the panel, and Poetry Editor of *ABR*), **Jen Webb**, and **Bill Manhire** – had almost 1,000 poems to assess before choosing the shortlist. It was our largest field to date. Five poems have been shortlisted, and the field reflects the international nature of this *ABR* competition. The shortlisted poets are **Eileen Chong** (Sydney), **Katherine Healy** (Adelaide), **LK Holt** (Melbourne), **Tracey Slaughter** (New Zealand), and **Nicholas Wong** (Hong Kong).



The Peter Porter Poetry Prize shortlist (left to right): Eileen Chong (photograph by Charlene Winfred Photography), Katherine Healy, LK Holt (photograph by Nicholas Walton-Healey), Tracey Slaughter, Nicholas Wong (photograph by Sum at Grainy Studio)

The shortlisted poems will appear in the March issue of *Australian Book Review*. The winner will be announced at a ceremony on **Monday, 19 March (6 pm)**. It will take place at **fortyfivedownstairs, 45 Flinders Lane, Melbourne**. This is a free event, but reservations are essential: rspv@australianbookreview.com.au. After readings from the work of Peter Porter by colleagues and admirers of the late poet, the shortlisted poets will introduce and read their poems. Then **Louis Klee** – co-winner of the 2017 Porter Prize – will name the overall winner, who will receive \$5,000, and the runner-up (\$2,000).

About the shortlisted poets

Eileen Chong's poetry collections are *Burning Rice* (2012), *Peony* (2014), and *Painting Red Orchids* (2016), all from Pitt Street Poetry. This is her second shortlisting for the Porter Prize.

Katherine Healy has published creative non-fiction, short fiction, and poetry. She gained her Master of Letters in Creative Writing from Central Queensland University. She has a poetry collection and a novel-in-progress.

LK Holt's first collection of poems, *Man Wolf Man*, won the 2009 Kenneth Slessor Prize in the NSW Premier's Awards. Her forthcoming collection, *System Garden*, will be published by Vagabond Press later this year.

Tracey Slaughter teaches at the University of Waikato, where she edits the literary journal *Mayhem*. Her short story collection *deleted scenes for lovers* (Victoria University Press, 2016) was longlisted for the Ockham NZ Book Awards.

Nicholas Wong is the Vice President of PEN Hong Kong and teaches at the Education University of Hong Kong. He is the author of *Crevasse* (Kaya Press, 2015), winner of the Lambda Literary Award in Gay Poetry

Further information

More information about *Australian Book Review* and the Porter Prize can be found on the *ABR* website or by contacting Progressive PR on (03) 9696 6417 or darren@progressivepr.com.au

The shortlisted poets will be available for interview.

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