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## Nicholas Wong wins the 2018 Porter Prize



Left to right: John Hawke, Morag Fraser, Nicholas Wong, and Peter Rose

Nicholas Wong is the winner of the [2018 Peter Porter Poetry Prize](#), now worth a total of \$8,500. This is Australia's premier prize for an original poem. Louis Klee, the 2017 winner, made the announcement at a special event at fortyfivedownstairs on Monday, 19 March. Nicholas Wong, who flew from Hong Kong to attend the Porter ceremony, receives \$5,000. His winning poem is titled '101, Taipei'.

This year's judges – John Hawke, Bill Manhire, Jen Webb – shortlisted poems by five poets – Eileen Chong, Katherine Healy, LK Holt, Tracey Slaughter, and Nicholas Wong. They were chosen from a record field of almost 1,000 poems. Tracey Slaughter's poem 'breather' was placed second. She receives \$2,000 – the other three shortlisted poets \$500 each.

Nicholas Wong, on winning the Prize, said: 'I'm honoured and humbled to be the winner, especially with a poem whose subject matter may seem foreign. Winning the Porter Prize also allows me to reach out to Australian readers.'

John Hawke – chair of the judging panel and Poetry Editor of *ABR* – commented: 'Nicholas Wong's "101, Taipei" is a powerful representation of urban dislocation, which cuts across cultures and languages in its swerving indirections and switches in style and syntax.'

Peter Rose – Editor of *Australian Book Review* – commented: 'We're delighted that Nicholas Wong, with his superb poem, becomes the first Asian to win one of *ABR*'s three literary prizes. This is good for world poets and the Porter Prize, and is a measure of greater awareness of *ABR* overseas.'

### About Nicholas Wong

Nicholas Wong is the author of *Crevasse* (Kaya Press, 2015), winner of the Lambda Literary Award in Gay Poetry. He is also the recipient of the Hong Kong Young Artist Award in Literary Arts in 2017. He is the Vice President of PEN Hong Kong, and teaches at the Education University of Hong Kong.

### Further information

The Peter Porter Poetry Prize is one of Australia's most prestigious poetry awards. For more information about the [Peter Porter Poetry Prize](#) or to read the [2018 shortlisted poems](#) please visit the [ABR website](#).

More information about *Australian Book Review* can be found on the *ABR* website.

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