

The John O'Connor First Book Award

Sudden Valley Press, in association with the Canterbury Poets' Collective, announce the second John O'Connor Award for an original, book-length manuscript of poetry by a South Island writer who has not previously published a full poetry collection.

The winning manuscript will be published by Sudden Valley Press, and the book will be launched with great fanfare on National Poetry Day 2024.

Conditions of Entry

1. We will accept only one entry per person, of a manuscript of between 60 and 120 pages in length (not including front and back matter). The competition is confined to poets resident in Te Waipounamu/ the South Island of Aotearoa New Zealand, who have not previously published a full length collection of poetry.
2. The initial review of entries will be by made committee members of the CPC, with only the longlisted manuscripts being sent to our independent final judge, Harry Ricketts. CPC committee members with connections to individual writers or manuscripts will not evaluate those individual manuscripts.
3. For the purposes of this competition, a **chapbook** is defined as a single publication of 24 pages or fewer, and a **full collection** as longer than 24 pages.
4. The competition submission window will open at 9 am on 27 October 2023 until midnight 14 January 2024.
5. A longlist of up to six manuscripts will be announced by March 1st, a shortlist of three by April 1st, and the winner announced on May 1st 2024. The announcements will be made by email to entrants, on the Canterbury Poets' Collective website (<https://canterburypoets.org.nz>), the CPC Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/cantypoet/>, and on the JOC Award page on the Sudden Valley Press website: <https://suddenvalleypress.com/joc-award/>.
6. Poems should be in English, or if in Te Reo Maori, supplied with an English translation for each poem on the facing page. Poems may be on any topic and in any style.
7. Individual poems may have been previously published in magazines etc, but the collection as a whole must not. Work that has previously appeared as a chapbook may be included as long as it makes up less than half the manuscript, and the chapbook was under 24 pages in length.
8. The manuscript may not be under consideration anywhere else during the competition (from 27 October until 1 May inclusive), although individual poems may be submitted to magazines during this time.

9. Include the official entry form, clearly writing the name of the author, their contact details, and the title of the collection. This should be the only place the author's name appears. You may submit this as an additional pdf page, or copy and paste it into the body of your email.
10. The manuscript should be submitted as a pdf file to joanna@suddenvalleypress.com with the subject line JOC Award. Other file formats will NOT be accepted.
11. The text should be in 12 pt Times New Roman or equivalent, double spaced, and formatted with 2.5 cm margins.
12. Pages must be numbered.
13. The title of the manuscript should appear on every page, but the name of the author must NOT.
14. Each poem must start on a new page. New pages should be started by inserting a page break, not by using multiple carriage returns.
15. A sample MSWord.doc template can be downloaded from the award page on the Sudden Valley Press website: <https://suddenvalleypress.com/joc-award/> .
16. The entry fee of \$30 must be paid by direct credit (internet banking) to **02-0865-0405306-000**. To help us keep track of your entry, please put **JOC Award**, your **surname**, and an abbreviation of your manuscript's **title** in the **Reference** fields, and note this reference on the entry form.
17. **Entries cannot be edited or altered once submitted, and no correspondence will be entered into.**

Timeline

27 October 2023 – competition opens

14 January 2024 – deadline for submission of manuscripts (midnight)

1 March 2024 – longlist announced

1 April 2024 – shortlist announced

1 May 2024 – winning manuscript announced

August 2024 (National Poetry Day) – winning collection launched

Entry Form – The 2024 John O’Connor First Book Award

Name:

Postal Address:

Email:

Title of manuscript:

Number of pages:

Reference code used in paying entry:

Checklist:

- title of the manuscript appears on every page;
- pages are numbered
- author’s name does *not* appear in manuscript;
- manuscript is double spaced, formatted for A4 paper with 2.5 cm margins;
- entry fee has been paid, and reference code noted above.

Declaration: I confirm that I have read all the conditions of entry. The manuscript submitted is my own work, and is not under consideration anywhere else. I also confirm that I am a current resident of Te Waipounamu/ the South Island.

Name: _____

Date: _____