

# Manchester Writing Competition 2012

## 2012 Finalist Profiles (in alphabetical order of surname):

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### **Fiona Benson: *Still Life With Red Herrings***

Fiona Benson's poems have been published in a wide range of journals, including The LRB, Poetry Review and The TLS. She won an Eric Gregory Award in 2006 and a Faber New Poets Award in 2009. She has a pamphlet of six Devon-inspired poems commissioned by Wordquest Devon and Cyprus Well. Her portfolio for the MMU poetry competition is part of a sequence of poems she is developing that takes the work of Vincent Van Gogh as its stepping-off point. She lives near Exeter with her partner James Meredith and their daughter Isla. Click [here](#) to read her poems.



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### **Jane McKie: *The Boy Who Found Fear***

Jane McKie lives in Scotland and is a creative writing tutor at the University of Edinburgh. Her first collection, *Morocco Rococo* (Cinnamon Press), was awarded the 2008 Sundial/Scottish Arts Council prize for best first book of 2007. Her other publications include *When the Sun Turns Green* (Polygon, 2009), and the pamphlet *Garden of Bedsteads* (Mariscat, 2011). She won the 2011 Edwin Morgan International Poetry Competition. Click [here](#) to read her poems.



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### **Abigail Parry: *The Knife Game***

Abigail Parry lives in London, where she works as a toymaker and teaches English Literature. Her work has appeared in various journals, including *Poetry London*, *The Rialto* and *Magma*, and in the anthologies *The Best British Poetry 2011* and *Lung Jazz: Young British Poets for Oxfam*. In 2009 she completed an MA in Creative Writing at Goldsmiths College, and in 2010 received an Eric Gregory Award from the Society of Authors. This year she was involved with Poetry Parnassus, during which copies of one of her poems were dropped onto London from a helicopter. She is currently working towards her first collection. Click [here](#) to read her poems.



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### **Chris Preddle: *Misshapen***

Chris Preddle has retired from libraries to a windy shoulder of the Pennines above Holmfirth in West Yorkshire. His second collection is *Cattle Console Him* (Waywiser, 2010); his first was *Bonobos* (Biscuit Publishing, 2001). He won a first prize in the Scintilla competition (2007) and second prizes at Stoketown (2012) and in the Yorkshire and Magma competitions (2011). His poems have appeared in British, Irish and American magazines. He is working on translations of Sappho. Click [here](#) to read his poems.



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### **Anthony Rowland: *The Siege of Minorca***

Anthony Rowland has published two collections with Salt Press: *The Land of Green Ginger* (2008) and *I am a Magenta Stick* (2012). He received an Eric Gregory award in 2000, and recorded for the national Poetry Archive in 2009. His work has been included in *Identity Parade: New British and Irish Poets* (Bloodaxe, 2010) and *New Poetries III* (Carcenet, 2002). He lives in south Manchester, and teaches literature and creative writing at The University of Salford. Click [here](#) to read his poems.



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**Emily Wills: *The Breaker***

Emily Wills has two collections, *Diverting the Sea* (2000) and *Developing the Negative* (2008), both published by The Rialto. Her work appears regularly in magazines and she won the 2012 Frogmore prize. She lives in Gloucestershire where she works part-time as a GP. Her website is: [here](#). Click [here](#) to read her poems.



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If you have any queries, or would like to know more about the competition, please contact James Draper, Manager of the Manchester Writing School at MMU, on +44 (0) 161 247 1787 or [j.draper@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:j.draper@mmu.ac.uk)

*Judges' accommodation provided by the Midland Hotel, Manchester.*  
*For Hotel Reservations: phone 0845 074 0060 or click [here](#)*



top of page ▲