



**THE WRITERS'
UNION OF CANADA**

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Press Release For Immediate Release:

AMY STUART'S "THE ROUNDNESS" WINS \$2,500 CASH PRIZE – WRITERS' UNION OF CANADA'S 19TH ANNUAL SHORT PROSE COMPETITION FOR DEVELOPING WRITERS

The Writers' Union of Canada is pleased to announce that Amy Stuart has won the \$2,500 cash prize for its nineteenth annual Short Prose Competition for Developing Writers, for the best story under 2,500 words, with her piece "The Roundness." The Union will submit the winning story and the eleven other shortlisted stories to three Canadian magazine publishers for their consideration.

Amy Stuart is currently on leave from her job as a high school English teacher to raise her children and pursue writing. In 2011, she was awarded a Toronto Arts Council emerging writer grant. Her writing has appeared in *The Globe and Mail* and *Canoeroots Magazine*. She is currently at work on her first novel and completing her MFA in Creative Writing through UBC. Amy Stuart lives in Toronto with her husband and their three young sons.

In honour of its twentieth anniversary, the Union initiated the Short Prose Competition in 1993. The Competition aims to discover, encourage, and promote new writers of short prose who are not yet published in book format, in order to provide opportunity and exposure to developing writers. This year, twenty-three Union members donated their time and expertise to read 438 outstanding submissions and distill them into a longlist of one hundred and two stories. These stories went on to a second round of eighteen readers who selected the finalists to pass on to the jury: **Kevin Chong, Anne Emery, and Sylvia Fraser.**

WINNER:

"The Roundness" by Amy Stuart

Right after delivering and giving up her baby in Toronto, a teenage girl, determined to be home for Christmas, boards a plane back to her small town. Still processing her experience as a storm grounds the flight, another passenger's dilemma presents her with a rare opportunity. The jury noted that "Amy Stuart's 'The Roundness' is a very moving story. The voice of the narrator, a young girl, is genuine and engaging. There is an effective juxtaposition of the serious (the predicament of the characters) and the banal (the delay in the airplane's departure, which makes the story possible). The reader's heart goes out to the young girl, her baby, the woman with the crying baby, and also to the 'off-screen' characters, the adoptive parents. Beautifully done. Stuart is an emerging talent with a smart eye, formidable wit, and a knack for creating a cast of characters in only a handful of pages."

FINALISTS

White Flowers, Dorothea Belanger, Longbow Lake, ON

1994, John Blackmore, Ottawa, ON

Psalm for an Only Daughter, Leslie Davidson, Grand Forks, BC

Lanny's Version, Marty Doupe, Toronto, ON

Men's Group, Ken Gray, Toronto, ON

Condominium, Kirsten Madsen, Whitehorse, YT

Waiting, Judith Major, Longbow Lake, ON

Takin' Care a Daddy, Judy Millar, Nanaimo, BC

Hair, Taryn Pearcey, Delta, BC

Going Up River, Renée Sarojini Saklikar, New Westminster, BC

The Bear, Lee Thomas Ward, Nipawin, SK

READERS FOR THE COMPETITION

Beverly Akerman, Sylvia Barrett, Ann Birch, Cullene Bryant, Kristin Butcher, Elspeth Cameron, Donna Caruso, Sara Cassidy, Marion Crook, Betty Cullen, Erin Dunham, Soraya Erian, Carolyn Gossage, Jane Harris-Zsovan, Peggy Herring, John Jansen in de Wal, Monica Kulling, Kathy-Diane Leveille, B.M. Lloyd, Anne Logan, Paul Mackan, Eleanor Millard, Iris Nowell, Patricia Pierce, Mark A. Rayner, Harriet Richards, Trudee Romanek, Jeff Ross, Gisela Sherman, Jim Smith, Caro Soles, Royston Tester, Matthew J. Trafford, Richard Truhlar, Sylvia Warsh, Christine Welldon, Catherine M.A. Wiebe, Marg Wilson, Morris Wolfe, Caroline Woodward, Betty Jane Wylie

FINAL JURY

Kevin Chong, Anne Emery, and Sylvia Fraser.

The Writers' Union of Canada is our country's national organization representing professional authors of books. Founded in 1973, the Union is dedicated to fostering writing in Canada, and promoting the rights, freedoms, and economic well-being of all writers. For more information, please visit www.writersunion.ca.

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For additional information:

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