



June 2, 2017

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**BEYOND BAROQUE LITERARY ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES THE  
WINNERS OF ITS SEVENTH ANNUAL POETRY CONTEST!**

Now in its seventh year, the 2016 Beyond Baroque Poetry Contest was judged by the award-winning poet Diane Wakoski, and was generously co-sponsored by Loyola Marymount University's English Department. Over 900 entries from across the nation were submitted to the contest. Each winner receives a cash prize: first place \$1000; second place \$500; and third place \$250. In addition to the three top prizes, two runner-ups were chosen. Winners and runners-up were chosen through a blind reading process in which the judge had no knowledge of the poems' authors. Judge Diane Wakoski had this to say about her selections (without knowing authors identities):

**First Place Winner, IN GEORGIA, A LAKE (by Maria Gillan, San Francisco, CA):**

This is a beautiful poem about both the personal and the public. I selected it for its use of the drying-up lake as a trope, which evolves through the poem until it's revealed that the speaker has a large lake inside herself. The lake is drying up into a big hole due to global warming, and that hole is transformed into the place where her love for her son - who disagrees with her on important things like global warming - is not enough to close the difference between them.

**Second Place Winner, A GLIMPSE OF BEAU JACK (by Robert Mezey, Claremont, CA):** This is a very successful memory poem. The speaker realizes that the boxer she saw while walking home with her father at age 11 is now advertised in a poster as a fighter named Beau Jack. The revelation is that he represented things she wanted, not money or fame, but "pride and prowess," "power and speed," "grace and fearlessness." Very effective poem tying the past and present together in the speaker's life.

**Third Place Winner, CUT FLOWERS (by Linda Neil, Los Angeles, CA):** The revelation in this poem is that the speaker sees the way in which dead things can mimic life, having previously created a scene, which is artful and artificial and still. This commentary makes a profound statement on the world of fashion and our high concepts of beauty, which are really death mimicking life. Subtle and understated, this poem is doing so much more than it seems on first reading.

Runners-up in alphabetical listing of the poem's title: **COTTON CANDY MAN (by Janet Nippell)** and **IN OUR HOUSE NOBODY EVER SAID (by Maria Gillan, San Francisco, CA)** .

A reading of the winning poems will be held at Beyond Baroque on Saturday, June 17th, at 4:00 PM.

Beyond Baroque is one of the United States' leading independent Literary Arts Centers and public spaces dedicated to literary and cultural performance, outreach, and community building. Founded in 1968, and based in the Old Town Hall in Venice Beach, California, the Center houses a bookstore, archive, gallery and theater. Beyond Baroque offers weekly readings, art exhibitions, and free workshops - all inspired by, and in the service of, the literary arts. Beyond Baroque is located at 681 Venice Boulevard, in Venice Beach, California.