

2020 Utah Original Writing Competition Winners

The Utah Division of Arts & Museums and the SLCC Community Writing Center have chosen 18 writers in seven categories as the winners of the 61st annual Utah Original Writing Competition. The winners were selected from a total of 291 entries from Utah-based writers.

Category A: Novel, judged by Roy Scranton

- * First Place: *The Prayer of St. Francis*, by Travis Petersen (Salt Lake City)
- * Second Place: *New Baby*, by Iris Moulton (Salt Lake City)
- * Honorable Mention: *Rush*, by Larry Menlove (Payson)

Category B: Creative Nonfiction Book, judged by Tessa Fontaine

- * First Place: *Non*, by Iris Moulton (Salt Lake City)
- * Second Place: *Who will water the flowers*, by Calvin Jolley (Salt Lake City)
- * Honorable Mention: *Whore's Blood*, by Marilyn Rockelman (Salt Lake City)

Category C: Book-length Collection of Short Stories, judged by Erika Wurth

- * First Place: *Good-Day Haircut and Other Stories*, by Ranjan Adiga (North Salt Lake)
- * Second Place: *This Will Be on the Exam*, by Jeremy Spencer Rees (Provo)
- * Honorable Mention: *The Companion Claws*, by Larry Menlove (Payson)

Category D: Young Adult Book, judged by Lanre Akinsiku

- * First Place: *Space for Nothing Else*, by Steven Johnson (Salt Lake City)
- * Second Place: *Welcome to Foxmouth*, by Lesley Hart Gunn (Provo)
- * Honorable Mention: *Mastermind*, by Kristen Evans (Salt Lake City)

Category E: Poetry, judged by John Lee Clark

- * First Place: Untitled, by Cindy King (St. George)
- * Second Place: "Aperitifs," by Brian Gray (Salt Lake City)
- * Honorable Mention: Untitled, by Britt Allen (Logan)

Category F: Short Story, judged by Carol Guess

- * First Place: "Bird Off a Barbed Wire," by Tessa Barkan (Boulder)
- * Second Place: "Day One," by Kristen Evans (Salt Lake City)
- * Honorable Mention: "The Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel," by Leah Fretwell (Lehi)

Category G: Creative Nonfiction Essay, judged by Steven Church

- * First Place: "In the Aftermath, Redemption," by Naomi Clegg (Salt Lake City)
- * Second Place: "Wool Girl," by Natalie Hopkins (Lehi)
- * Honorable Mention: "Pierced," by Andrew Romriell (Sandy)

There will be an event celebrating Utah writers and the Original Writing Competition on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, from 6-8 p.m. via Zoom. There will be an awards ceremony and readings by previous competition winners.