

2022 Marianne Bluger Award

Books

1st Place

Joyride Jennifer Hambrick

Honourable Mention

Sirens and Rain Barry George

Chapbooks

1st Place

The Language of Loss Debbie Strange

Honourable Mention

Mannequins Dressed for the Window: Haiku Secrets Gary Hotham

Judges' Comments

Our thanks to all the poets who submitted material for the 2022 Bluger Award and for the privilege of reading your work. A total of 26 submissions were received (14 books and 12 chapbooks) from Canada and the US. The production values were generally quite high with one submission being an exquisite handmade volume.

Many parameters were taken into account in reviewing each piece including technique, flow, freshness, balance, cohesion, design, and layout.

We independently selected the same first place winners. With little further discussion and rereading we settled on the Honourable Mentions.

Joyride by Jennifer Hambrick and *The Language of Loss* by Debbie Strange leave one with a feeling of a complete artistic statement authentic to human experience and emotion. Both book and chapbook demonstrate a technical facility that projects the illusion of effortless composition from page to page.

A number of the submissions would have benefitted from further editing, eliminating or revising poems with weaker technique or redundancy within the collection — less is more.

The wide-ranging focus of all the submissions made the judging opportunity exciting and challenging. These were strong collections, each of which had its spark of heartfelt warmth and brilliance. Thank you for sharing these with us.