

*'...wisdom and wit, elegance and
exquisiteness, power and passion...'*

Poetica:
*The Inner Circle Writers'
Group Poetry Anthologies
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Poetica: The Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

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Poetica # 2

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
Poetry Anthology



How do we form our own views of what is going on in another's world? By understanding the foundation of imaginative, subjective, 'inner' thinking. Poetry isn't like prose or informative essays or scientific rationality or the outer world — it communicates to us about inner worlds, firstly those of the poets, and then, if the poet is successful, about our own.

Welcome to the many inner worlds of the more-than-one-hundred poets in this volume.

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Poetica #3

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
Poetry Anthology



Featuring the work of Fran Abrams, Ed Ahern, Warren Alexander, Trish Bailey, Gabriella Balcom, Jim Bates, the Birch Twins, Elizabeth Brown, Eva Marie Cagley, Meera Dandekar, Dawn DeBaal, Laura DiMartino, Denise D'Souza, DJ Elton, Susan H. Evans, Kelli J Gavin, Chitra Gopalakrishnan, Marlon S. Hayes, Sheila Henry, Jesse Highsmith, Shelly L. Huckaby, Kerri Jesmer, Helen Jones, Christine Karper-Smith, Nerisha Kemraj, Shawn M. Klimek, Elizabeth V. Koshy, Mark Kuglin, Brandy Lane, Charlotte Langtree, Catherine Lee, Colleen Lyon, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Madeleine McDonald, Laura McGinnis, Aminath Neena, Roxana Negut, Ikechukwu Obiorah, Natalie Partridge, Sultana Raza, Michal Reiben, Vaughn Roste, A. A. Rubin, Chanchal Sarin, Salman Sowdagar, Linda Sparks, C.L. Steele, V. H. Stone, Craig Tickner, Mike Turner, Amrita Valan and Gerardine White.

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Poetica # 4

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
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Featuring (in order of appearance): Ikechukwu Obiorah, David Painter, Dawn DeBraal, Kerry Hands, Trish Bailey, William Wordsworth, William Blake, Jim Bates, Michal Reiben, Craig Richard Tickner, Jan McCulloch, Gabriela Docan, Gerard Manley Hopkins, Thomas R. Bates, Sharon Frame Gay, Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Fran Abrams, Dr. Elizabeth V. Koshy, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, The Birch Twins, Gabriella Balcom, A. A. Rubin, Linda Sparks, Kerri Jesmer, Philip Larkin, Catherine A. Mackenzie, Aminath Neena, Lisa H. Owens, Susanne Thomas, Rohma Safi, Kelli J Gavin, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Mike Turner

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Poetica # 5

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
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Featuring in order of appearance: DJ Elton, Mike Turner, Gabriella Balcom, David Painter, Jan McCulloch, Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath, Lesley Mace, Thomas R. Bates, Dr Chanchal Sarin, William Blake, Linda Sparks, Kelli J Gavin, Ikechukwu Obiorah, Jim Bates, the Birch Twins, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, John Drudge, Dawn DeBraal, Michal Reiben, T. S. Eliot, Maria J. Estrada, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Elaine Marie Carnegie-Padgett, Mark Kughlin, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Kerri Jesmer, Craig Richard Tickner, Aminath Neena, Lisa H. Owens, Dr. Elizabeth V. Koshy, and Elizabeth Brown.

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Poetica # 6

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

*Every heart sings a song, incomplete, until another heart whispers back.
Those who wish to sing always find a song. At the touch of a lover,
everyone becomes a poet. — Plato*

Featuring, in order of appearance: Dr Elizabeth V. Koshy, Kelli J Gavin, Gilad Hess, Catherine Lee, Gerard Sarnat, Gabriela Docan, Linda M. Crate, Shiloh Osheen, Laura McGinnis, Mike Turner, Elizabeth Brown, Dr Chanchal Sarin, Linda Sparks, Ed Ahern, Lesley Mace, Laura Hughes, Kerri Jesmer, Michal Reiben, Gabriella Balcom, DJ Elton, The Birch Twins, Jim Bates, David Painter, Suranjit Gain, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Mark Kuglin, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Dawn DeBaal, Ikechukwu Obiorah, Medha Godbole Singh, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Tony Fyler, Sultana Raza, Aminath Neena, Craig Tickner, Christina, Ger White, Peter Gaskell and Trish Bailey.

Edited by Grant P. Hudson



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Poetica # 7

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology



I think that we're beginning to remember that the first poets didn't come out of a classroom, that poetry began when somebody walked off of a savanna or out of a cave and looked up at the sky with wonder and said, "Ahhh." That was the first poem. -- Lucille Clifton

Featuring, in order of appearance: Justin Wiggins, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Michal Reiben, Kelli J Gavin, Suranjit Gain, Dawn DeBraul, Lesley Mace, metaphysical poet Andrew Marvell, Gabriella Balcom, Lisa H. Owens, Linda Sparks, Ikechukwu Obiorah, Jim Bates, Bobbi Sinha-Morey, Tony Fyler, Thomas R. Bates, Dr Chanchal Sarin, Richard Rose, Linda M. Crate, The Birch Twins, DJ Elton, Sultana Raza, Mike Turner, Medha Godbole Singh, Tim Law, Trish Bailey, Festus Nwachukwu, Shawn M. Klimek, Aminath Neena, Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Craig Tickner and Kerri Jesmer, with a special essay about Philip Larkin.

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Poetica # 8

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
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Poetica # 8 features the work of (in order of appearance): Warren Alexander, Michal Reiben, Kerri Jesmer, the Birch Twins, Jacek Wilkos, Alexander Perez, John Drudge, Mark Pearce, Ed Ahern, Linda Sparks, Elizabeth Brown, Mike Turner, Justin Jones, Trish Bailey, Sultana Raza, gey howard klepp, Linda M. Crate, Carmen Baca, Shiloh Osheen, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Dr Chanchal Sarin, Dawn Debraal, Gabriela Docan, Raphael Merriman, Aminath Neena, Ger White, Jim Bates, Poetry by Christina, Craig Richard Tickner, Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Maria J. Estrada, and Tony Fyler, with bonus features on the poem Gawain and the Green Knight and George Herbert's Preyer I!

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Poetica # 9

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of (in order of appearance): Ed Ahern, Michal Reiben, Craig Tickner, Justin Wiggins, Linda Sparks, Helen Jones, David Painter, Poetry by Christina, Richard Rose, Matthew Huff, Gabriella Balcom, Tim Law, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Sharon Frame Gay, the Birch Twins, Jim Bates, Thomas R. Bates, Linda M. Crate, Mike Turner, Catherine Lee, Kelli J Gavin, Raphael Merriman, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, DJ Elton, Tony Fyler, Trish Bailey and Jenean McBrearty, and with poems and commentaries on Matthew Arnold's 'Dover Beach' and William Shakespeare's 'Sonnet 18'.

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Poetica # 10

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
Poetry Anthology

Featuring in order of appearance: Kelli J Gavin, Anita Shukla, Elizabeth Brown, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Sheila Henry, Petrouchka Alexieva, Michal Reiben, Linda Sparks, Thomas R Bates, Kerri Jesmer, Tim Law, Jacek Wilkos, John Drudge, Catherine A Mackenzie, Dawn DeBaal, Jenean McBrearty, The Birch Twins, Gerardine White, Jim Bates, Mike Turner, Trish Bailey, DJ Elton, Tony Fyler, Craig Tickner, Gabriella Balcom, Sultana Raza, Aminath Neena, Joseph M. Butler, Justin Wiggins, David Painter, Poetry by Christina and Raphael Merriman, with an essay featuring the poetry of Percy Shelley.

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Poetica # 11

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of (in order of appearance) Annie Nardone, Tony Fyler, Dr Chanchal Sarin, Justin Jones, David Painter, Destiny Eve Pifer, Marlene Fabian Stiles, DJ Elton, Tim Law, Jim Bates, Mike Turner, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Kerri Jesmer, Dawn DeBaal, the Birch Twins, Linda Sparks, Elizabeth Brown, Kelli J Gavin, Carrel Barber, Pulkita Anand, Mhardz Guivarra, Anita Shukla, Michal Reiben, Justin Wiggins, Poetry by Christina, Raphael Merriman, Trish Bailey, Ger White, Sultana Raza and Craig Tickner, and including an analysis of the poetry of Philip Larkin.

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Poetica # 12

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
Poetry Anthology

Featuring, in order of appearance: Annie Nardone, DJ Elton, Thomas R Bates, the Birch Twins, Jan McCulloch, Sharon Frame Gay, Raphael Merriman, Trish Bailey, Mike Turner, Linda Sparks, Lisa H. Owens, Jenean McBrearty, Dawn DeBraal, David Painter, Jim Bates, Linda M. Crate, Poetry by Christina, Justin Wiggins, Anne Marie Lake, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Kerri Jesmer, Elizabeth Brown, Prakash Nagarajan, Kelli J Gavin, Fhen M., Petrouchka Alexieva, Pulkita Anand, Michal Reiben, Catherine Lee, Tony Fyler, Peter Kenny, Ruth Morgan, Arminath Neena, Maggie D Brace, Ger White, Sultana Raza, Craig Tickner, Joseph M. Butler and Eileen Butler.

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Poetica #13

An Inner Circle Writers' Group
Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of (in order of appearance): Mike Turner, Anne Marie Lake, James Croal Jackson, Shelly L. Huckaby, Tony Fyler, Andrew Birch, Jim Bates, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Dawn DeBraal, Justin Wiggins, Fhen M., Mike Ricketts, Linda Sparks, Lisa H. Owens, Suranjit Gain, Michael Shoemaker, Ed Ahern, Linda M. Crate, Poetry by Christina, Michal Reiben, Kelli J Gavin, Lawrence Sherman Cohn, Marlene Fabian Stiles, DJ Elton, Peter Kenny, Annie Nardone, Mark Scheel, David Painter, Aminath Neena, Trish Bailey, Marjorie Cuffy, Gabriella Balcom, Sultana Raza, Craig Tickner and Kerri Jesmer.

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Poetica # 14

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Poetica # 14 features the work of (in order of appearance): Annie Nardone, Fhen M, Venkat Raman, Duane Vorhees, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Mike Turner, Miss Petrouchka Alexieva, Jim Bates, Michal Reiben, Ronald Darby, Kerri Jesmer, Jacek Wilkos, DJ Elton, Mike Ricketts, Gerardine White, Linda M. Crate, Lenny Whitman, Poetry by Christina, Ralph Dranow, Dawn DeBraal, Michael Parker, Linda Sparks, Andrew Birch, Lawrence Sherman Cohn, Aminath Neena, BT Dulin, Satabdi Saha, Trish Bailey, Suranjit Gain, Elizabeth Brown, Jan McCulloch, David Painter, Dr. Afshan Aqil, Tony Fyler, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Peter Kenny, Hugh Addison, Sultana Raza, Craig Richard Tickner, Gabriella Balcom and Kelli J Gavin.



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Poetica # 15

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Poetica # 15 features the work of Raphael Merriman, Gabriela Docan, Maggie D Brace, Craig Tickner, Sultana Raza, Shawn M. Klimek, Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Aminath Neena, Ximena Escobar, Tony Fyler, Peter Kenny, Jim Bates, Gabriella Balcom, David Painter, Annie Nardone, Tim Law, Ruth Morgan, DJ Elton, the Birch Twins, Mike Turner, Jacek Wilkos, Gerald Jatzek, Faustus M, Anne Marie Lake, Medha Godbole Singh, Gerardine White, Linda M. Crate, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Poetry by Christina, Gareth Macready, Fhen M, Lisa H. Owens, Ed Ahern, Dawn DeBaal, Kerri Jesmer, Rick Cross, Petrouchka Alexieva, Trish Bailey, Mike Ricketts, Suranjit Gain, Kelli J Gavin, Afshan Aqil, Linda Sparks and Michal Reiben.



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Poetica # 16

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of (in order of appearance): Ed Ahern, Linda M. Crate, Michal Reiben, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Sultana Raza, Kelli J Gavin, Elizabeth Brown, Suranjit Gain, Jim Bates, Craig Tickner, Jonah Jones, Engilbert Egill Stefánsson, Anne Marie Lake, the Birch Twins, Gareth Macready, Justin Wiggins, Mike Turner, Annie Nardone, Duane Vorhees, DJ Elton, Afshan Aqil, Jacek Wilkos, Linda Sparks, Marlene Fabian Stiles, David Painter, Richard Rose, Gabriella Balcom, Petrouchka Alexieva, Dawn DeBaal, Fhen M., Trish Bailey, Kerri Jesmer, Dr. Elizabeth V. Koshy, Peter Kenny, Tony Fyler, Aminath Neena, Vanessa Caraveo, Thomas R Bates, Sharon Frame Gay, Tim Law, Nnamdi Chinkere Anyahara, Lisa H. Owens and Jill Kiesow.



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Poetica # 17

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of Fhen M, Peter Kenny, the Birch Twins, Mike Turner, Michal Reiben, Petrouchka Alexieva, Kerri Jesmer, David Painter, Poetry by Christina, Dawn DeBaal, Deryn Pittar, Tim Law, Gareth Macready, 'N', Jacek Wilkos, Kelli J Gavin, DJ Elton, Sultana Raza, Gabriella Balcom, Justin Wiggins, Justin Jones, James Hancock, Afshan Aqil, Tony Fyler, Linda M. Crate, Melissa Lynn Foote, Jonah Jones, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Linda Sparks, Dr. Elizabeth V. Koshy, Lisa H. Owens, Craig Tickner, Ed Ahern, RLM Cooper, Jim Bates, Gary Bonn, Jan McCulloch, Anne Marie Lake, Lenna and Trish Bailey.



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Poetica # 18

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of Fhen M., Lisa H. Owens, the Birch Twins, Gareth Macready, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Jonah Jones, Poetry by Christina, Carmen Baca, John Grey, Kortisha Y Baker, Kerri Jesmer, Peter Kenny, Ms. Petrouchka Alexieva, Fariel Shafee, Tim Law, Afshan Aqil, Linda M. Crate, James Croal Jackson, DJ Elton, Mike Turner, Tony Fyler, Linda Sparks, Jim Bates, Deryn Pittar, Justin Wiggins, Dawn DeBraal, Michal Reiben, Ed Ahern, Trish Bailey, David Painter, Suranjit Gain, Kelli J Gavin, Giuseppina (Pina) Marino Leyland, Jacek Wilkos, Craig Richard Tickner, Sultana Raza and Joseph M. Butler.



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Poetica # 19

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of Fhen M., the Birch Twins, Lisa H. Owens, Dr. Elizabeth V. Koshy, Gareth Macready, Craig Tickner, Elizabeth Brown, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Ms. Petrouchka Alexieva, Jim Bates, Kerri Jesmer, Annie Nardone, Helen Jones, Peter Kenny, DJ Elton, Kimberly Burnham, Claire O'Connor, Tony Fyler, Ruth Morgan, Sultana Raza, Medha Godbole Singh, David Painter, Mike Turner, Jonah Jones, Trish Bailey, Kelli J Gavin, Poetry by Christina, Justin Wiggins, Jacek Wilkos, Tim Law, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Dawn DeBaal, Anne-Marie Lake, Linda Sparks, Suranjit Gain and Michal Reiben.



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Featuring the work of Jesse Highsmith, P.A. O'Neil, Linda Sparks, Afshan Aqil, Peter Kenny, Justin Wiggins, Jim Bates, grey_fountain, DJ Elton, John Grey, Jacek Wilkos, Jannat Fatma, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Kerri Jesmer, Michal Reiben, Tim Law, Craig Richard Tickner, the Birch Twins, Linda M. Crate, Annie Nardone, Irma Kurti, Catherine Lee, Ms. Petrouchka Alexieva, Mike Turner, Poetry by Christina, Jonah Jones, John Drudge, Tony Fyler, Dr. Elizabeth V. Koshy, Fhen M., Sharon Frame Gay, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Dawn DeBaal, David Painter, Suranjit Gain, Kelli J Gavin, Thomas R Bates, Rick Haynes, Anahit Arustamyan, Gareth Maccready, Trish Bailey, Catherine A. MacKenzie.



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Poetica # 21

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Featuring the work of Tim Law, Lisa H. Owens, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Afshan Aqil, Sultana Raza, Michal Reiben, Craig Tickner, Jacek Wilkos, Jannat Fatma, Gerald Jatsek, Jim Bates, DJ Elton, Peter Kenny, the Birch Twins, Ruth Morgan, Poetry by Christina, Tsitsi Faith Mutukwa, Linda M. Crate, Mike Turner, Anne Marie Lake, Jean Frost Smith, Justin Wiggins, Tony Fyler, Dawn DeBaal, Nnamdi Chinkere Anyahara, Kerri Jesmer, Aminath Neena, Linda Sparks, Kaneix, Trish Bailey, David Painter, Suranjit Gain, Kelli J Gavin, Gareth Macready, Maria J. Estrada, Anahit Arustamyan and Giuseppina Marino Leyland.



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Poetica # 22

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Featuring the work of Peter Kenny, Lisa H. Owens, Gabriella Balcom, Olivia Arieti, Jim Bates, Jacek Wilkos, Jack Urban, DJ Elton, Marlene Fabian Stiles, the Birch Twins, Joseph M. Butler, Mike Turner, Jonah Jones, Craig Tickner, Justin Tuijl, Tony Fyler, Johannes W. H. Van Der Bijl, Kerri Jesmer, Leigh Sosville, Trish Bailey, Thomas R. Bates, Anahit Arustamyan, Allan Tierney, David Painter, Travis Grooms, Tim Law, Justin Wiggins, Linda Sparks, Gareth Macready, Dawn DeBaal, Kelli J Gavin, John Drudge, Michal Reiben, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Ig~ fatma_1408_, John Grey, grey_fountain, Satabdi Saha, Suranjit Gain and Giuseppina Marino Leyland.



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Featuring the work of Amarine Rose Ravenwood, Aminath Neena, Gabriella Balcom, Deborah Joan Jones, Sultana Raza, Tony Fyler, Kerri Jesmer, Craig Richard Tickner, Trish Bailey, Annie Nardone, Dawn DeBraal, DJ Elton, Ruth Morgan, Justin Wiggins, Linda Sparks, Jacek Wilkos, Fhen M, Afshan Aqil, Jim Bates, Mike Turner, Peter Kenny, Gareth Macready, Allan Tierney, Travis Grooms, the Birch Twins, Catherine A. MacKenzie, David Painter, Suranjit Gain, Kelli J Gavin, Thomas R. Bates, Anhait Arustamyan and Michal Reiben.



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Poetica # 24

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of David Painter, Fhen M., Craig Richard Tickner, Hanna Biali, John Grey, Kerri Jesmer, Afshan Aqil, Peter Kenny, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Jacek Wilkos, DJ Elton, Annie Nardone, Jim Bates, Linda M. Crate, Mike Turner, Maggie D Brace, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Tony Fyler, Sharon Frame Gay, the Birch Twins, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Dawn DeBaal, Trish Bailey, Sultana Raza, Suranjit Gain, Thomas R. Bates, Anhait Arustamyan, Allan Tierney, Kelli J Gavin, Gareth Macready, Quinn Graw, Justin Wiggins, Michal Reiben, Jean Frost Smith, Tim Law, Gabriella Balcom and Linda Sparks.



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Poetica # 25

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of Peter Kenny, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Craig Richard Tickner, Afshan Aqil, Sultana Raza, Jacek Wilkos, Heather Brown, Tony Fyler, Trish Parkinson, RLM Cooper, Gabriella Balcom, Fhen M., Linda Sparks, Justin Wiggins, Diane Bright, the Birch Twins, Irma Kurti, Jim Bates, Mike Turner, Amrita Skye Blaine, David Painter, DJ Elton, Mary Grace Hidalgo Abogado, Michal Reiben, Allan Tierney, Kerri Jesmer, Jan McCulloch, Anhait Arustamyan, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Maria J. Estrada, Kelli J Gavin and Thomas R. Bates.



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Poetica # 26

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of Allan Tierney, Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Sultana Raza, Maggie D Brace, Annie Nardone, Craig Richard Tickner, Tony Fyler, Trish Parkinson, Peter Kenny, Gareth Macready, Debby Hackbarth, DJ Elton, Afshan Aqil, Dawn DeBraal, Kerri Jesmer, Hanna Biali, Jacek Wilkos, David Painter, Sharon Frame Gay, Andrew and Helen Birch, Linda M. Crate, Mike Turner, Gabriella Balcom, Jim Bates, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Olivia Arieti, Fhen M., Binod Dawadi, RLM Cooper, Thomas R. Bates, Anhait Arustamyan, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Ed Ahern, Abdel Latif Moubarak, Justin Wiggins, Linda Sparks, Tim Law, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Richard Rose, Joseph C. Ogbonna, Lisa H. Owens, Michal Reiben and Kelli J Gavin.



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Poetica # 27

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of DJ Elton, Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Jacek Wilkos, Hanna Biali, Tony Fyler, Craig Richard Tickner, Sultana Raza, Trish Parkinson, Peter Kenny, David Painter, Gabriella Balcom, Fhen M., Afshan Aqil, Debby Hackbarth, Kerri Jesmer, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Jim Bates, the Birch Twins, Tim Law, Linda M. Crate, Mike Turner, Gareth Macready, Aminath Neena, Allan Edward Tierney, Justin Wiggins, Jan McCulloch, Anahit Arustamyan, Suranjit Gain, Linda Sparks, John Grey, Dawn DeBaal, Catherine A. MacKenzie, John Drudge, Kelli J Gavin and Michal Reiben.



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Poetica # 28

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of David Painter, Gareth Macready, Dr. Afshan Aqil, Kerri Jesmer, Tim Law, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Ed Ahern, Mike Turner, Gabriella Balcom, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Christine Karper-Smith, Jim Bates, Anahit Arustamyan, Hanna Biali, Warren Alexander, Giuseppina Marino Leyland, Justin Wiggins, the Birch Twins, Debby Hackbarth, Valerie Fuqua, Linda Sparks, Dawn DeBraal, Allan Edward Tierney, Suranjit Gain, Carl Scharwath, Michal Reiben, Kelli J Gavin, Jacek Wilkos, Peter Kenny, Fhen M., Annie Nardone, DJ Elton, Trish Parkinson, Tony Fyler, Craig Richard Tickner and Michelle Chermaine Ramos.



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Poetica # 29

An Inner Circle Writers' Group Poetry Anthology

Featuring the work of Sultana Raza, Kerri Jesmer, Craig Richard Tickner, Jacek Wilkos, Michelle Chermaine Ramos, Trish Parkinson, DJ Elton, Peter Kenny, Gareth Macready, Dr. Afshan Aqil, Hanna Biali, Debby Hackbarth, Christine Karper-Smith, John Grey, the Birch Twins, Linda M. Crate, Mike Turner, Jim Bates, Marlene Fabian Stiles, Tim Law, Tony Fyler, Aminath Neena, Mark Pearce, David Painter, Anahit Arustamyan, Suranjit Gain, Colleen M. Lyon, Linda Sparks, Justin Wiggins, Catherine A. MacKenzie, Michal Reiben and Kelli J Gavin.



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Submission Guidelines for Poetica Anthologies

For your convenience, here are the submission guidelines for the *Poetica* series of poetry anthologies. For details about each individual anthology, or if you have any questions, please contact me by email: grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

The Intention of Poetica Anthologies

There is a common assumption among poets and readers generally that 'There is no market for poetry.' I hear this regularly.

This idea arises because, in the big world of publishing, poetry is seen to be a private, highly subjective affair which correspondingly does not sell well. Personal tastes, obscurity of form, and lack of poetic craft all add up to poetry being 'shoved into the corner' and usually only self-published or produced as a vanity piece.

This is a shame. There are a great many good poets out there: thousands of voices whose passionate visions of reality are not finding a proper outlet. Without channels to transmit these visions to readers, they can eventually fall silent.

The effort of this series of *Poetica* anthologies is to contribute to the creation of a market for poetry throughout the calendar year. By providing a regular, published venue for poetry from all over the world, poems as media for the communication of important and heartfelt ideas and reflections can gain in respect and become more widely acknowledged. Voices can be heard; channels can be opened.

For an individual poet, this potentially provides an ongoing marketplace for poetry. The benefits for a poet of appearing in a *Poetica* anthology include

- the credibility that comes from being independently published, as opposed to self-published
- the higher production standards associated with independent publishing
- a wider reading audience
- the building of a 'track record' as a published poet to help with future submissions elsewhere
- the boosting of personal confidence and strength of voice which comes from being recognised as a publishable poet.

As described below, classic poems as well as essays on those poems will sometimes be part of the anthologies. *Poetica* is published bi-monthly.

What I'm Looking For In General

I'm looking for *well-crafted poems*. That means poems which have been designed to appeal to readers through the use of accepted forms, rhythms and methods — not long, formless, rambling first drafts or shapeless, incomplete collections of words which don't make internal sense. 'Free verse', as we can discover, is not entirely free. From Wikipedia:

Free verse contains some elements of form, including the poetic line, which may vary freely; rhythm; strophes or strophic rhythms; stanzaic patterns and rhythmic units or cadences. It is said that verse is free 'when it is not primarily obtained by the metered line.' Donald Hall goes as far as to say that 'the form of free verse is as binding and as liberating as the form of a rondeau,' and T. S. Eliot wrote, 'No verse is free for the man who wants to do a good job.'

Read poetry widely before submitting. Submit only your BEST work. Each *Poetica* anthology, in addition to including accepted poems, will sometimes contain several classic, publicly available poems by world famous poets, along with some essays about these. So a poet accepted into a *Poetica* anthology will be 'rubbing shoulders' with the greats. Try to live up to that association. Great poetry can be engendered in the company of great poets — or that's the idea, anyway.

How To Submit

I accept submissions through the Clarendon House Publications email address:

grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

Please don't post anything via mail, as I work through email only.

I need poems sent to me as Word documents. Anything more exotic will be refused. PLEASE ALSO INCLUDE IN THE SAME DOCUMENT (NOT SEPARATELY) A 100

WORD AUTHOR BIO (with links if you wish). This is to save time later, if your submission is accepted.

Clarendon House Publications is based in the UK, but I accept submissions from authors all over the world, as long as they are in the correct format outlined above.

No submission fee is required.

Please submit ONLY ONE POEM to each anthology. This is to ensure that there is enough space for other poets.

I understand if you want to submit to more than one publisher at a time, but obviously I must know IMMEDIATELY if a poem you've submitted to me has been accepted elsewhere.

Editing Submissions

It is a condition of submission that the author must be open to me correcting punctuation, spelling, grammar or any

other technical basics without always contacting him or her. This is occasionally tricky with poems, as what may seem to be an error may be intentional on the poet's part. If your poem contains any such deliberate 'errors', please let me know by annotating it.

If I have suggestions on how to improve a poem in order to get it published, I will write back to the poet and discuss things. As an editor, I am here to help poets make it, and all suggestions will be made with that in mind. If, after receiving feedback, the poet does not wish to proceed, that is fine and will not bar future consideration for publication.

It is obviously in the poet's best interests to ensure that the submission is in the best possible shape prior to sending it to me. If the submission takes too much time to fix, it is likely to be rejected. It also follows from this that submissions must be the FINAL version as far as the poets are concerned — I will not be able to entertain any adjustments to documents (other than proofreading fixes as above) once they have been received.

Anthology Format

Anthologies are available in paperback and ebook formats from Amazon. There may also be full-colour illustrated versions available later, downloadable as a pdf from the Clarendon House website.

Please note that I cannot consider anything with illustrations or photographs.

Deadlines

Poetica submissions can be sent in at any time. If not in time for the edition in progress, they may be considered for publication in a later volume.

Rights

When I publish a poem, I only ask that it not be tangled up in any other prior agreement and be exclusive to Clarendon House for one year after the date of publication. I don't ask for other rights, or place any limits on what you can do with your poem after the exclusivity period. This is to encourage sales of a particular anthology.

Copyright

Copyright remains with you at all times.

Word Count

Maximum word count for each poem will be **500 words**. No minimum.

Censorship

Nothing sexually or violently graphic or gratuitous will be considered.

Payment

Each accepted poet receives a free e-copy of the complete anthology publication by email. As you can imagine, in an anthology with possibly 100 or more poets, monetary payments to each poet are not feasible or viable at this stage.

Marketing

I strongly recommend (but do not insist) that each accepted author ideally purchase **THREE** copies of the paperback book once released — one for their own collection (it's important to validate one's own progress as a published poet); one for a family member, friend, or influencer; and one for their local library. If this is done, the marketplace grows for every poet included in each volume. But purchases will depend upon each

poet's budget and intentions, I understand that.

Other marketing advice includes using social media to spread the word, contacting friends and family, and so on. More about effective marketing (as opposed to time-wasting and expensive marketing) is contained in my book *Become a Professional Author*.

Response Times

I aim to reply to all submissions within three weeks, although I will sometimes go over this during busy periods. If you're waiting for a reply from me, please keep an eye on your junk mail folder, as some replies do end up there. If you grow concerned, or have any questions about anything, you can always email me at grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

Contract

Submitting work constitutes acceptance of these guidelines as a contractual arrangement.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Here's to a new market for poetry!
grant@clarendonhousebooks.com

What people have said about

CLARENDON HOUSE PUBLICATIONS

J. McCulloch, Author

Clarendon House has what the majority of other publishers lack; the personal touch. Grant Hudson draws people into his cosy library (also known as the Inner Circle Writers' Group), sits them down and works his magic. Many new writers lack confidence in their ability, so Grant fine tunes their perspective, boosts their morale and sets them up to win. I have been humbled by his untiring efforts to help us all. We are his people. He is our mentor, our eccentric English professor and our much valued friend.

D. Taylor, Author

As I was scrolling fb, and seeing all these ads from people claiming to help authors do this and do that, I thought to myself, Grant Hudson is the genuine mentor. Thanks for your solid advice.

P. O'Neil, Author

Grant is the model mentor for this new age of writing.

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The world is better with all this beautiful work seen at last.

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A place where good literature is nurtured.

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Clarendon House Publications is everything publishing should be. Grant Hudson is a caring editor and mentor who works closely with authors to produce top quality publications, and his writing community, The Inner Circle Writers' Group, is a safe and encouraging environment where established authors share their expertise and new writers are nurtured to spread their wings. I highly recommend!

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