

Winner of the Balcones Fiction Prize

Lanny by Max Porter (Graywolf Press)

Photo credit: Lucy Dickens

Max Porter is the author of *Lanny*, and *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*, which won the International Dylan Thomas Prize and the *Sunday Times*/Peters Fraser + Dunlop Young Writer of the Year Award, and was shortlisted for the *Guardian* First Book Award and the Goldsmiths Prize.

Our final judge, novelist Brian Van Reet, who won the award two years ago, said this:

"*Lanny* gripped me from the start with its bold sense of place and story. As I kept reading, the precise, evocative, and unpretentiously original language showed Porter to be a world-class writer. The greatest achievement of *Lanny* may be its thematic balance between the mythic and the real as it weaves together several narrative viewpoints to create a moody tale of small-town English life."

The Balcones Fiction Prize finalists (in alphabetical order) are:

Amazing Things Are Happening Here by Jacob Appel (Black Lawrence Press)

Song for the Unraveling of the World by Brian Evenson (Coffee House Press)

Oceanography by Jeremy Griffin (Orison Books)

The Not Wives by Carley Moore (Feminist Press)

Once Removed by Colette Sartor (University of Georgia Press)

House of Stone by Novuyo Rosa Tshuma (Norton)

The Remainder by Alia Trabucco Zerán (Coffee House Press)

Winner of the Balcones Poetry Prize

Erou by Maya Phillips (Four Way Books)

Photo credit: Molly Walsh

Maya Phillips, born and raised in New York, is the author of the debut poetry collection *Erou* (Four Way Books, 2019), a finalist for the PEN Open Book Award, and *NERD: On Navigating Heroes, Magic, and Fandom in the 21st Century*, forthcoming in summer 2022 by Atria Books. Maya received her MFA in poetry from Warren Wilson's MFA Program for Writers and her BFA from Emerson College. Her poetry has appeared in *At Length*, *BOAAT*, *The Gettysburg*

Review, Ghost Proposal, Hayden's Ferry Review, Vinyl, The New York Times Magazine, and more, and her arts & entertainment journalism has appeared in The New York Times, The New Yorker, Vulture, Slate, The Week, American Theatre, and more. Maya currently works at The New York Times. She lives in Brooklyn.

The judges for the Balcones Poetry Prize—Prudence Arceneaux, Charlie Clark, and Amanda Johnston—said this:

“Maya Phillips’s *Erou* is a powerful and sustained meditation linking the modern experience of the loss to the myth of the hero’s journey. The poems are startling, assured, and can be as playful as they are grief-struck, showing the many--sometimes contradictory--ways we experience loss and sorrow. *Erou* introduces the contemporary poetry landscape a voice that will be read and heard from for a long time to come.”

The Balcones Poetry Prize finalists (in alphabetical order) are:

The War Makes Everyone Lonely by Graham Barnhart (University of Chicago Press)

The Ocean Cannot Be Blue by Kirsten Hampton (Turning Point Books)

HoodWitch by Faylita Hicks (Acre Books)

Monsters I Have Been by Kenji C. Liu (Alice James Books)

I Shimmer Sometimes, Too by Porsha Olayiwola (Button Poetry)

Library of Little Catastrophes by Alison C. Rollins (Copper Canyon Press)

Lima :: Limón by Natalie Scenters-Zapico (Copper Canyon Press)

Carrying the Water to the Field by Joyce Sutphen (University of Nebraska Press)