
2026 FIRECRACKER AWARD WINNER, POETRY

Celebrating the Best of Independent Literary Publishing

The Choreic Period: Poems by Latif Askia Ba (Milkweed Editions)

“*The Choreic Period* is a striking contribution to contemporary disability poetics, challenging ableist reading habits and expanding what poetic accessibility and difficulty can mean.”

—Judges José Angel Araguz, Danny Caine & Esther Lin
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2026 FIRECRACKER AWARD WINNER, CREATIVE NONFICTION

Celebrating the Best of Independent Literary Publishing

Governing Bodies: A Memoir, A Confluence, A Watershed by Sangamithra Iyer (Milkweed Editions)

“*Governing Bodies* weaves together research and personal narrative in a genre-blurring work that is both a memoir and an argument, a model to other writers who live intersectional lives and write intersectional stories.”

—Judges Neema Avashia, Neesha Powell-Ingabire & Riley Rennhack
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2026 FIRECRACKER AWARD WINNER, FICTION

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Blood Work and Other Stories by Donald A. Carreira Ching (Bamboo Ridge Press)

“These masterfully crafted stories erupt off the page with the unexpected splendor of pōhinahina growing in an ABC Store parking lot. They remind us that Hawai‘i is a place of enduring beauty and strength.”

—Judges Stacie Shannon Denetsosie, Mubanga Kalimamukwento & Mikey LaFave
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The FIRECRACKER AWARDS

The CLMP Firecracker Awards for Independently Published Literature are given annually to celebrate the books and magazines that make a significant contribution to our literary culture and the publishers that strive to introduce important voices to readers far and wide. For books, prizes are awarded in the categories of Fiction, Creative Nonfiction, and Poetry, and for magazines, prizes are awarded in the categories of General Excellence and Best Debut.

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