

## Postmark Deadline: December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

The Holy Cow! Press “First Fiction” Prize is a regional prize, sponsored by the Lindquist & Vennum Foundation. Established in 2016 with the aim of supporting outstanding mid west writers and bringing their work to a national stage, the prize will award \$5,000 as well as a contract for publication to the author of the winning manuscript. This prize is for the publication of a writer's first collection of short stories or novella. The winner will be selected from among five finalists by an independent judge.

### 2017 Judge: Linda LeGarde Grover

Linda LeGarde Grover is a member of the Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe and a professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota Duluth. She is the author of *The Dance Boots* (University of Georgia Press, 2010), which received the Flannery O'Connor award and the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize, and of *The Road Back to Sweetgrass* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014), winner of the Wordcraft Circle of Native Writers and Storytellers 2015 fiction award and the Red Mountain Editor's Award. Her most recent publication is *The Sky Watched—Poems of Ojibwe Lives* (Red Mountain Press, 2016).

### I. ELIGIBILITY & CONTEST GUIDELINES

- la. Submissions for this regional prize will be accepted only from writers currently residing in **North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, Illinois and Wisconsin**. This prize is for the publication of a writer's first published collection of short stories or novella, from a writer of any age, ethnic or cultural background, urban or rural residence.
- lb. The work must not be currently under consideration for publication by Holy Cow! Press.
- lc. Simultaneous submissions are allowed, with the stipulation that writers alert Holy Cow! Press immediately if a manuscript they've submitted to the contest has been accepted elsewhere.
- ld. The submitted manuscript must be unpublished, though individual stories may have been previously published.
- le. A reading fee of \$20 is requested; each entrant will receive a copy of the winning book upon publication.
- lf. Five finalists will be selected by preliminary readers and editors at Holy Cow! Press. The prizewinning collection will be selected from among the finalists by a critically acclaimed writer. All finalists will be notified.
- lg. The winning collection will be announced late January/early February, 2017. The prizewinner will receive \$5,000 and publication by Holy Cow! Press. The prizewinning collection will be published in Fall, 2017.
- lh. Writers should refrain from entering the contest if their relationship to the judge in a given year constitutes a conflict of interest, and Holy Cow! Press reserves the right to disqualify any entries deemed to jeopardize the integrity of the contest. Writers published by Holy Cow! Press within the preceding two years are not eligible to enter the contest. Submissions will not be accepted from employees of The Lindquist & Vennum Foundation, The Minneapolis Foundation, or Holy Cow! Press, their families, or relations.

### II. SUBMISSIONS

- la. Submissions for the “First Fiction” contest **are open through December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. This year's finalist judge is Linda LeGarde Grover. This prize is for the publication of a writer's first collection of short stories or a novella.
- lb. **All entries must be received in hard copy ONLY**, and must be postmarked on or before December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 in order to be eligible for the prize. Emailed submissions will not be considered.
- lc. Writers may submit one complete, book-length collection of short stories or a novella..
- ld. Please include a single loose cover sheet providing the following information:

#### Contact

Writer's name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

About your submission

Title of manuscript:

Total page count:

Titles of the individual stories within that have been previously published:

About you

Please include a brief biographical paragraph.

- **No identifying information should appear on the manuscript itself.** The cover sheet will not be made available to the judge.
- Do not include the writer's name as a header or footer, or on title pages. (If the writer's name appears within the body of the text, please omit it, line it out with permanent marker, or use a pseudonym.)
- Manuscripts should be bound into a folder. Maximum page length: 160 pages, double-spaced, two-sided, 12 point type if possible. Please include a title page (with author's name omitted) and table of contents. **Pages must be numbered.**

- Address all submissions for the First Fiction Prize to:

**ATTN: First Fiction Prize**

**c/o Holy Cow! Press**

**Post Office Box 3170, Mount Royal Station,**

**Duluth, Minnesota 55803**

Improperly addressed or incomplete submissions cannot be guaranteed consideration for the prize.

- **Manuscripts will not be returned.**

If you have any questions not answered here, please contact our office at (218) 724-1653.