

# TAMRYN BENNETT



Tamryn is a poet, artist and Director of Red Room Poetry. Her works are published and exhibited widely across Australia, Mexico and North America. *Phosphene* is her first full-length collection (Rabbit Poet Series).

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

- 2017** 'Plant Symphony', Mt Annan Botanic Garden  
'New Shoots: A Garden of Poems', Melbourne (Red Room Poetry)
- 2016** 'phosphene', Wollongong Art Gallery (May - July)  
'Plant Symphony' Beams Festival, Sydney  
'New Shoots: Poems inspired by plant', Sydney (Red Room Poetry)
- 2015** 'Plant Symphony', Centennial Park, Sydney
- 2013** 'Diorama', Wollongong Art Gallery (Group Show)
- 2012** 'Secretos de la Ciudad', El Centro de Cultura Digital, Mexico  
'Born before Reason', Contemporary Skope Basel, Miami  
'Empire of Dead Intention II', NG Art, Sydney,
- 2011** 'Empire of Dead Intention', Flinders Lane Gallery, Melbourne  
'Papertrail', Plump Gallery, Sydney
- 2010** 'Fires I have lit', Gaffa Gallery, Sydney  
'Burn my Letters', Kinokuniya, Sydney

## PUBLICATIONS & READINGS

**2018**

- *icaros*, Vagabond Press (poetry collection - forthcoming)

**2017**

- *The Covert Plant: Vegetal Consciousness and Agency in an Anthropocentric World*, Punctum Books (poetry - forthcoming)
- Queensland Poetry Festival (QPF) - Deep North & Word + Image (reading)
- NYU Sydney (guest lecture)
- 'Dancing with Demons: identity and consciousness in the comics of Lynda Barry'. University of Texas Press (book chapter)

**2016**

- *phosphene*, *Rabbit Poet Series*, RMIT (poetry collection)  
*ImageText : Interdisciplinary Comics Studies 'Praxis and Pedagogy'* (peer reviewed) 2015
- *Image [&] Narrative 'Comics poetry: beyond sequential art'* (peer reviewed)

**2014**

- *Cordite Scholarly 'Comics Poetry: The Art of the Possible'* (peer reviewed)
- *Cordite Poetry Review*, 'Beneath the Cathedral' (poetry)
- *Mascara Literary Review*, Bella Li and A.J Curruthers (review)

**2013**

- *Tabula Rasa*, 'Tapalpa' (poetry)
- *Mascara Literary Review*, Michael Brennan's *Autoethnographic* (review)

**2012**

- *English in Australia 'Peering through the kaleidoscope of visual poetry'*, Vol. 46. No.3, pp.55 - 67. (peer reviewed )
- *THEthe Poetry*, 'ANEKI' (comics poetry)
- 'Comics Poetry: Beyond sequential boundaries' (peer reviewed)

**2011**

- *Mascara Literary Review*, 'ANEKI' (comics poetry)
- Poetry and The Contemporary, Deakin University (conference paper)  
Fractured Words/Broken Images, Lancaster University, UK (conference paper)

## REVIEWS OF PHOSPHERE



In her Introduction, Bennett (who is also fluent in Spanish) tells us that *phosphene* “began in Mexico as a series of rituals and offerings at sacred sites.” [...] Most of the poems are short and resonate in the way haiku and tanka do (at their best). There is also a deal of surrealism (for which Spanish has been an excellent vehicle over the past century or so) [...] *phosphene* is indeed that unusual and perhaps necessary thing in poetry, a successful experiment. Whether it counts as “non-fiction” is probably not the issue. It certainly sounds authentic.

~ **Geoff Page, Sydney Morning Herald**

Tamryn Bennett’s *phosphene* occupies an entirely different space [...] Taken as a whole, *phosphene* is a wild, open landscape with features that only gradually become familiar. Finishing a first reading, we find hints of this expansive, quiet world, but the full picture isn’t clear. This is a space that invites many repeat visits. It’s with each subsequent reading that *phosphene* rewards us. ~ **Alice Allan, Cordite Poetry Review**

*phosphene* evokes the concern for illuminating what has been erased due to centuries of colonisation and imperialism, specifically for the Latin American peoples. More generally, the title refers to the concept of awareness and the act of taking the time to look deeper in order to acknowledge complex histories... By directing her gaze outward rather than inward Bennett’s *phosphene* considers how “the ground remembers // el suelo recuerda” the histories, cultures and peoples who have existed on the lands in which she is travelling through. ~ **Autumn Royal, Southerly**

## RESIDENCIES

**2016** Wollongong Art Gallery (July - December)

**2015** Bundanon Trust (December)

## AWARDS & GRANTS

2017 - See Red Room Poetry (redroomcompany.org)  
2012

**2010** UNSW Conference Grant  
UNSW Research Grant

**2009** Australian Poet-Graduate Award (3 years)  
UNSW Research Excellence Award (3 years)  
John Marsden Poetry Prize, Highly commended  
Wollongong City Council Cultural Services Small Grant

**2008** University of Wollongong, University Medal

## EDUCATION

**2012** PhD (Creative Writing), University of New South Wales

**2008** Honours (Creative Writing), University of Wollongong

BA Creative Arts (Creative Writing), University of Wollongong  
BCM Communications Media (Journalism), University of Wollongong

## CONTACT

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