

# The Poetry Business

## TWO SMITH/DOORSTOP POETS SHORTLISTED FOR FORWARD PRIZE

Smith/Doorstop and The Poetry Business congratulate Catherine Smith and Allison McVety on having their poetry collections shortlisted for the prestigious Forward Prize on 31 July 2008.

This marks a further success for us following our Forward shortlisting in previous years and other nominations such as Michael Laskey's *Tightrope Wedding* for the T. S. Eliot Prize.

**Catherine Smith** has been shortlisted for The Forward Best Collection Prize, worth £10,000, for *Lip*. She was on holiday when she heard.

"I was in the Outer Hebrides and got a text from a friend, and had no idea what she was talking about so had to ring her to confirm she hadn't gone mad. I couldn't get a paper till the next day so it was all very surreal." Asked about her own poetry she says, "I'd say it tries to find the dark heart of the human experience but I hope it's also darkly funny. Does that sound ridiculous?!"

Her Smith/Doorstop book, *The Butcher's Hands*, was also shortlisted for a Forward Prize (Best First Collection) in 2003.

**Allison McVety** has been shortlisted for The Forward First Collection Prize, worth £5,000, for *The Night Trotsky Came to Stay*. She was on a break when she heard the news.

"I read about being shortlisted and spilt my coffee over a white dress. When I went back to the office it was like soaring at 60,000 feet. No-one could grasp how someone could work in a computer environment and write poetry. I am completely blown away and completely overjoyed. I am just taking pleasure in being nominated."

Asked about her poetry she says, "It is primarily about identity and inheritance, not bricks and mortar, but blood and DNA. In my poetry I try to translate and re-translate to find some truth and re-tell the ordinary."

(*Lip*, *The Butcher's Hands* and *The Night Trotsky Came to Stay* are all available to buy direct from Smith/Doorstop and selected bookshops.)