

2016 CLAIRE KEYES POETRY AWARD WINNERS

In 2014, Claire Keyes, poet, friend of poetry, and long-time poetry editor of *Soundings East*, launched and underwrote this annual competition that celebrates excellence within the larger poetry community. In addition, a student award, judged this year by poet Jennifer Jean, promotes poetry at Salem State University, where Claire remains an honored professor emerita.

This year's judge for the national award was Ross Gay. Gay's third book, *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude*, which won the 2015 National Book Critics Circle Award and the 2016 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award. *Catalog of Unabashed Gratitude* was also a finalist for the 2015 National Book Award in Poetry and nominated for an NAACP Image Award. Gay teaches at Indiana University.

This year's winner of the national award is Mark Wagenaar.

Judge's citation: "These poems are weird and exciting and full of wonderful language and music, and they are always going for something just beyond reach."

—Ross Gay