

Winterset finalists announced

Martin, Power, Wangersky vying for \$10,000 prize



Russell Wangersky

Russell Wangersky, The Telegram's editorial page editor, is among the finalists for the 2010 BMO Winterset Award, the Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council announced Wednesday.

The other two finalists are Samuel Thomas Martin and Craig Francis Power.

Wangersky has been shortlisted for his debut novel, "The Glass Harmonica," published by Thomas Allen. Set on a fictional St. John's street, the book goes in and out of a row of houses, discovering the owners' intertwined dirty secrets.

"The Glass Harmonica" is Wangersky's third book. His 2006 short story collection "The Hour of Bad Decisions" was longlisted for the Scotia-

bank/Giller Prize and shortlisted for the Commonwealth Writers' Prize, while "Burning Down the House: Fighting Fires and Losing Myself" won three national awards for non-fiction as well as the Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award for Non-Fiction.

"I'm still a bit stunned — it is a fantastic award, and I am quite thrilled to be on the shortlist. There are so many high-quality writers in this province right now, and such a supportive writing community, that it's wonderful just to be working here," Wangersky said.

Martin has been shortlisted for the Winterset for "This Ramshackle Tabernacle," published by Breakwater Books. His debut book, it's a collection of stories set in fictional towns in northeastern Ontario.

A native of Ontario now living in St. John's, Martin's short stories have been published across Canada and the U.S. Last November, he placed third in The Telegram's Cuffer Prize short fiction contest for his story, "Do You Hear Me?"

Power is nominated for "Blood Relatives," a darkly comic novel about a 31-year-old office cleaner whose life has gone out of control after the death of his father. Also his debut book, the novel has already won the Percy Janes First Novel Award and the Fresh Fish Award for unpublished fiction manuscripts.

The Winterset winner will receive a \$10,000 prize, and the two finalists will each receive \$2,000.

Books in any genre, written by Newfoundland and Labrador authors (either native or resident) and published in 2010 were eligible for the award, which saw a total of 37 works submitted by publishers across the country.

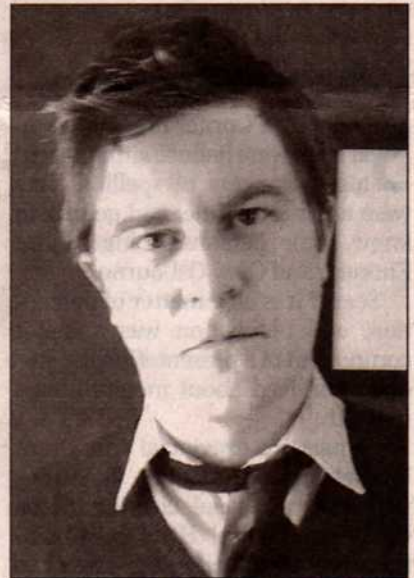
The jury consisted of authors Libby Creelman, Kenneth J. Harvey and Randall Maggs.

The Winterset Award honours the memory of Sandra Fraser Gwyn, a St. John's-born social historian, author and promoter of local arts and culture.

Her husband, journalist and author Richard Gwyn, established



Samuel Thomas Martin



Craig Francis Power

the award in 2000, and named it after the home on Winter Avenue where she grew up.

Martin, Power and Wangersky will read from their books and answer questions from the audience at a reception in the theatre at The Rooms Wednesday, March 23 at 7 p.m.

The winner will be announced at Government House on Thursday, March 24.

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