

Laura Wainwright is a Cardiff-born academic and poet who lives in Newport. Laura was published in Black Bough Issue 1 and joins Issue 2 as a Guest Reader



IN CONVERSATION WITH LAURA WAINWRIGHT GUEST READER

Q. Tell us a little about yourself and where your work is published

A. I was born in Cardiff and grew up in Newport, southeast Wales, where I still live. My background is in literary criticism, specifically the fields of Welsh writing in English and literary Modernism. I have a PhD in English Literature from Cardiff University and my book, *New Territories in Modernism: Anglophone Welsh Writing 1930-1949* was published by the University of Wales Press in 2018. I was shortlisted in the Bridport Prize poetry competition in 2013 and I have published poetry in the inaugural issue of Black Bough, Honno's 'Poem of the Month' and in Wales Haiku Journal.

Q. How long have you been writing poetry and how did you start?

A. I have been writing poetry intermittently for almost ten years, although I have been reading and studying it for much longer. I started writing poetry seriously in response to the loss of my grandfather. But I also decided that I didn't want to think and write exclusively about other poets' and writers' lives and work anymore. I wanted to expand my own creativity, to test my own voice.

Q. What poets are your favourites and what was the last collection you read?

A. Individual poems, poetic sequences and collections

mean more to me than poets, and these often shift over time, so I find it difficult to name favourites. At the moment I am reading wondrous poetry by Elizabeth Bishop, Vernon Watkins, Robert Minhinnick, Fiona Benson, Rebecca Goss, Liz Berry and Raymond Antrobus.

Q. You have recently joined Black Bough Poetry as a guest reader, what drew you to the publication?

A. Black Bough's nod to Modernist poet, Ezra Pound, caught my eye and it's powerfully spare, imagistic aesthetic appealed to me as I tend to write quite succinctly. As the first issue of Black Bough attests, this publication also has a truly international reach and appeal and publishes well-known poets alongside more inexperienced ones who might otherwise have been marginalised or overlooked. Matthew Smith is a knowledgeable, dedicated and supportive editor. These qualities are all important to me.

Q. Any tips you can give poets wishing to be published by Black Bough?

A. Try to have confidence in your work and don't be afraid to submit. I say this because I find confidence hard to come by but I am so glad that I submitted my work to Black Bough. Perhaps Ezra Pound can offer some additional inspiration: 'An "Image" is that which presents an intellectual and emotional complex in an instant of time. [. . .] It is the presentation of such a "complex" instantaneously which gives that sense of sudden liberation; that sense of freedom from time limits and space limits; that sense of sudden growth, which we experience in the presence of the greatest works of art'. (From 'A Few Don'ts by an Imagiste', 1912)

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