

2015 MCC Creative Writing Contest

Poetry Category

Honorable Mention: “*The Dancer*,” by Kyare Bouchard

The dancer’s devotion was delicate.
She seemed to sigh when she cried,
because her devotion was not helping.
She worked all day and night.
Weary little dancer,
her devotion made her die inside.
With every little movement
she lost little bits of light from her eyes.
Her devotion was apparently her demise.

JUDGE’S COMMENTS

This poem makes a worthwhile statement about the challenges of the artistic process. What roadblocks do we put in our own way? But to enable us to feel the dancer’s struggle, we need much more concreteness. Use the language of dance. If you don’t know what that is, find out by talking to a dancer, or choose another art form where you know the language. Alliteration is one of the tools available to a poet, but like all tools, it can be over-used. Here, there are too many “d” words.

*Catherine Frerichs is retired after many years of teaching writing, literature, and other humanities courses at Glen Oaks Community College, Albion College, and, most recently, Grand Valley State University. She is the author of *Desires of the Heart: A Daughter Remembers Her Missionary Parents* (Cold River Studio, 2010), in which she uses her parents’ letters, journals, and other research to write about her parents’ 40 years of working in Papua New Guinea and the costs to their children. Currently, she is working on a book that explores her relationship with her three Sudanese children whom she foster-parented for seven years and who have remained her children.*