

## Jill Van Epps wins the 2024 Jolley Prize

Jill Van Epps is the winner of the 2024 *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize. She receives \$6,000 for her story 'Pornwald'. Van Epps was announced as the winner of the Jolley Prize at a ceremony at Sydney's Gleebooks on August 15.

### Judges' Comment

"'Pornwald' is a puzzle that tests the limits of realism with an often riotously deadpan sense of humour. Characters move through a world that is superficially familiar, but as the story progresses, all may not be as it initially appears: this is an unpredictable place, wilder than the characters themselves realise. What would it mean, the story asks us to consider, if we were to wake up one day to our own unreality?"



Jill Van Epps

### Jill Van Epps' Comment

'The Jolley Prize has brought my work out of the solitary writer's cocoon where it's been encased for so long. How thrilling for the strange little characters I dreamed up to find an audience. This means everything to me. Thank you to the *Australian Book Review* for serving as a meeting place for writers and readers around the world.'

### About Jill Van Epps

Jill Van Epps is a writer and filmmaker based in Brooklyn. She received her MFA in visual art from Goldsmiths College in London and studied video art in Berlin on a Fulbright fellowship. She was awarded the Margaret C. Annan Award for fiction and has had several poems published in journals, including *The Pedestal Magazine*, *The Hiram Poetry Review*, *The Oyez Review*, and *Visions International*. She is currently completing her first novel, *Teenage Babylon*.

### Jolley Prize Shortlist and Judges

The other two shortlisted authors are: **Kerry Greer (WA)**, runner-up for her story 'First Snow' and **Shelley Stenhouse (USA)**, who placed third for her story 'M.'. [All three stories appear in the August issue.](#)

This year the *ABR* Elizabeth Jolley Short Story Prize (worth a total of \$12,500) received more than 1,300 entries from thirty-six different countries. It was judged by **Patrick Flanery (SA)**, **Melinda Harvey (Vic)** and **Susan Midalia (WA)**.

### Interviews

Jill Van Epps is available for interview. Please direct requests to Peter Rose at [editor@australianbookreview.com.au](mailto:editor@australianbookreview.com.au) | (03) 9699 8822