

Apply now for the 2013 Blanchan/Doubleday writing awards

Through the generosity of private donor Neltje, the Wyoming Arts Council gives the Neltje Blanchan and Frank Nelson Doubleday Memorial Awards for excellence in creative writing.

"I have always lived comfortably, benefiting from the thoughts and ideas of writers. It is a great pleasure to give back, now, some of the good fortune writers have brought me. To help women writers, I've established the Frank Nelson Doubleday Memorial Award, named for my grandfather, founder of Doubleday & Company Publishers. The Neltje Blanchan Memorial Award honors my grandmother, who contributed much to Doubleday in its early days by writing the nature books that kept the presses rolling."

-- Neltje

These awards are designed to bring attention to writers who have not yet received wide recognition for their work, and to support emerging writers at crucial times in their careers. Poets, fiction writers, essayists, and script writers who have published no more than one book in each genre and who are not students or faculty members are invited to apply by submitting manuscripts and an entry form by the deadline.

Since 1989, 42 talented writers have received Blanchan/Doubleday awards: Geoffrey O'Gara, Betsy Orient Bernfeld, Hannah Hinchman, David Mouat, Sheila Roberts, Scott Hagel, Holly Skinner, C.L. Rawlins, Marcia Saum, Dainis Hazners, Barbara Gilbert, William Hoagland, Diane LeBlanc, Tina Willis, Maija Rhee Devine, Mary Beth Baptiste, Julene Bair, Chavawn Kelley, Geneen Marie Haugen, Janell Hanson, Mark Spragg, Karol Griffin, Stefani Farris, Laura Bell, Darcy Acord, Jack Clinton, Tina Welling, Susan Marsh, Myra Peak, Marcia Hensley, Jeffe Kennedy, Melodie Edwards, Bo Moore, Barbara Smith, Alisan Peters, Lou O. Madison, Christine B. Nelson, W. Dale Nelson, Nina S. McConigley, Patricia Frolander, Edith Cook and George Vlastos.

The **Neltje Blanchan Award**, \$1,000, is given for the best poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, or script which is informed by a relationship with the natural world.

The **Frank Nelson Doubleday Award**, \$1,000, is given for the best poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, or script written by a woman author.

POSTMARK DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 2, 2012

Blanchan/Doubleday Judge is Katharine Coles

Katharine Coles' fifth and sixth collections of poems, *The Earth Is Not Flat* and *Flight*, are forthcoming in 2013 and 2015 from Red Hen Press. Her poems, essays, and stories have appeared in such journals as *The Paris Review*, *The Gettysburg Review*, *Poetry*, *Image*, *Seneca Review*, *North American Review*, *Southwest Review*, *DIAGRAM*, and *Ascent*. In 2009-10, she served as the inaugural director of the Harriet Monroe Poetry Institute for the Poetry Foundation. She is a professor at the University of Utah, where she founded and co-directs the Utah Symposium in Science and Literature. She is a 2012 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow.

In 2010, she traveled to Antarctica to write poems under the auspices of the National Science Foundation's Antarctic Artists and Writers Program. Here is Coles speaking about her trip to Antarctica and how it influenced her writing:

In 2010, I was in Antarctica for a month during the Astral summer, returning home on the solstice that marks the Southern Hemisphere's longest day and the Northern Hemisphere's shortest. I wanted to go the Antarctica for precisely the reason many people thought I was crazy to do so: because it's about as far "out there" as a person can get without actually leaving the planet. In my own case, the voyage included a four-day boat trip each way across the Drake Passage, the world's most notorious ocean crossing. It was wonderful. As a poet, I am most inspired by the places in which I am most foreign and least comfortable—and I've never been more foreign or less comfortable than when looking up sixty feet from the bottom of a trough to the top of its wave.

Of course, while I was on the ice I thought and wrote about penguins and krill, about lichens and global climate change and the fragility of ecosystems. I also thought and wrote about perception and illusion, about how we know what we think we know.

Though I have always written about nature, I haven't until recently thought of myself as a "nature poet." This is partly because I've always been most interested in nature in the sense that scientists conceive it—as "Nature" with a capital "N," which includes not only what we can observe with our senses also the deeper reality that gives rise to it, which is the proper object of study for physicists, mathematicians, neurologists, and philosophers. In Antarctica, I was constantly dumbfounded by the gorgeous strangeness of the landscape around me, which was open to the gaze. And, as I learned about the extent to which that landscape was an illusion made of light reflected and refracted by water, ice, and sky, I became even more astonished. If what I could see was beauty, what was there to be understood was Beauty. They are the same, but not exactly.



Guidelines for the 2013 Blanchan and Doubleday writing awards

Eligibility:

You may enter if you meet the following requirements:

- * You must not be a full-time college student or full-time college faculty.
- * You must be at least 18 years old and a legal resident of Wyoming, living in the state for at least ten months of the year, since July 1, 2011.
- * To receive an award, you must remain a Wyoming resident until June 30, 2013, living in the state for at least ten months of the year.
- * You must not have received a Blanchan or Doubleday award in the last four years. You may apply for these awards if you received a 2012 (or previous year) creative writing fellowship.
- * You may not have received a 2013 Arts Council creative writing fellowship.
- * You may enter if you have never published a book, if you've published only one full-length book of fiction, poetry or nonfiction, or if you have published no more than one book of poetry, one of fiction, and one of nonfiction (self-publication excluded).
- * To enter the Frank Nelson Doubleday competition, you must be a woman.

Manuscript guidelines:

- * Submit two copies of work, for each competition, typed on 16 or 20 pound 8 1/2" x 11" white paper. Photocopies are acceptable. You may enter the same work to both competitions, but must submit two separate copies of it for each award.
- * Do not staple manuscripts or use any manuscript cover or binder; paper clip each copy after collating.
- * Submit work in one genre only (poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction or script).
- * Writing may have been previously published, but don't submit reprints; published work must be retyped to conform to the rest of the manuscript.
- * Manuscript must be consecutively page-numbered. Include title of work and page numbers on each page.
- * Your name must not appear anywhere on the manuscript.
- * If you submit more than the allowed page limits (see below), extra pages will be removed; you will not be notified.
- * Do not send supplementary materials (letters, resumes, etc.).
- * If novel or play/film synopses are part of the manuscript (this is often helpful to the juror), include them in the total page number count.

Length requirements:

- * Poetry, maximum length: 10 printed pages. Type single-spaced, with no more than one poem per printed page.
- * Fiction and creative nonfiction, maximum length: 25 printed pages. Type double-spaced, using either one side or both sides of page.
- * Drama and screenplays, maximum length: 25 printed pages. Must be typed and presented in the standard, industry-accepted format for the type of script submitted.



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Attn: 2013 Blanchan/Doubleday Fellowship
2320 Capitol Avenue
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Guidelines (Cont.)

Submission procedures:

- * You may enter each competition once only, by November 2, 2012.
- * Send two copies of the manuscript for each competition.
- * Fill out and enclose a signed entry form (you may use a photocopy) with manuscripts. The same form may be used to enter both competitions.
- * If you want the Council to acknowledge receipt of your manuscripts, enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard.

After you submit your application:

- * If you enclosed a self-addressed stamped postcard, the Council will acknowledge receipt of your manuscript.
- * Your name and credentials are not available to juror; all manuscripts are identified by number. Juror will not critique individual manuscripts.
- * Manuscripts will not be returned, and will be discarded after the competition. Please be sure to retain copies of your work.

If you win an award:

- * Winners will be notified after February 1, 2013.
- * You'll receive \$1,000 (after February 1, 2013). At the discretion of the juror, no award may be given, or both awards may be given to the same writer.
- * You'll sign a contract which verifies that you're eligible to receive this award.
- * You must remain a resident of the state through June 30, 2013, living within its borders for at least ten months of the year.
- * You'll need to supply a resume and black and white photograph for publicity, and the Council will ask permission to print some of your work in its publications.
- * You'll retain the right of publication to the work you produce during the award period.
- * You must fill out a form, due June 30, 2013, which asks questions about how this award helped you and what you accomplished during the year. There are no requirements regarding work you complete during the award period or how you use the funds.