

Vandermeer Toyota Poetry Prize:

Winner: Lila Sundani Cappelletti

Winning Poetry Entry: *“I am from”*

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I Am From...

I am from the dazzling gem aquamarine. I am from the stars of the fish.

I am from tending to rescued creatures great and small.

I am from the touch of the gentle cow's sandpaper tongue.

I am from gliding beneath Poseidon's mighty waves.

I am from exploring the arts wherever they may lie.

I am from the ink-blotted pages of pleasant scent; from in between the words that I shall carry with me for eternity.

I am from Albert's words, "Everyone is a genius, but if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing it's stupid."

I am from the growth of Italian, German, French Canadian and Dutch roots.

I am from my childish innocence at my Great-Grandmother's funeral; from my demands to 'let her out of the box'.

I am from the yellowish paste etched on my forehead on festival days

I am from the sweet aroma of rosewater and saffron; I am from the beat of the drum and the chime of Kartals.

I am from the summer's breeze whispering softly on my neck.

I am from the willow's strong arms that held me tight.

I am from the woe of standing out, yet the fear of fitting in.

I am from tears of the past they cannot see; from the ambitions they can never understand.

I am from the prayer for peace; a prosperous future.

I am from the hope that I can change the world.

I am from...