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Hammered Dulcimer

Lisa Williams

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THE MAY SWENSON POETRY AWARD

THE MAY SWENSON POETRY AWARD WAS NAMED FOR MAY SWENSON, AND honors her as one of America's most provocative, insouciant, and vital poets. During her long career, May published eleven volumes of poems, and she was loved and praised by writers from virtually every major school of poetry. She left a legacy of nearly fifty years of writing when she died in 1989.

May Swenson lived most of her adult life in New York City, the center of poetry writing and publishing in her day. But she is buried in Logan, Utah, her birthplace and hometown.

Praise for *The Hammered Dulcimer*

Lisa Williams's poems often start out in song and end in epistemology, but they frequently break out into a kind of humming in the course of walking their self-generated routes. They manifest a fine ear not only for the rhythms of verse in English, but for those of the argument that makes them. . . .

They extend a line of powerfully and actively contemplative poetry that marks some of the finest American verse of the twentieth century.

. . . It is most appropriate that Lisa Williams's work receive an award in the name of that profoundly original poet, May Swenson, for this is not only a more than promising first book, but introduces an original way of looking at the world — and of looking at that looking itself. It is a pleasure to greet it.

—from the Foreword by John Hollander



Winner of the May Swenson Award, Lisa Williams has also received an Academy of American Poets' Prize, a Tennessee Williams Scholarship to the Sewanee Writer's Conference, and other awards. Her work has been published widely in literary journals.

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