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Tomorrow's Living Room

Jason Whitmarsh

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THE MAY SWENSON POETRY AWARD

This annual competition, named for May Swenson, honors her as one of America's most provocative and vital writers. In John Hollander's words, she was "one of our few unquestionably major poets." During her long career, May 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. She is buried in Logan, Utah, her birthplace and hometown.

Tomorrow's Living Room

"Jason Whitmarsh has carved out a verbal territory for himself unlike anyone else's. It is the kind of voice that whistles for our attention."

—Billy Collins

The verbal territory of *Tomorrow's Living Room* is pleasantly disorienting. Thirteenth winner of the May Swenson Poetry Award, the collection is alternately wry and dark, hopeful and bleak, full of unexpected light and laugh-out-loud incongruities. We begin to see that the shape and the furniture of Jason Whitmarsh's world reflect our own (and may in fact be universal), but we're considering them through completely new terms of engagement.

The May Swenson Poetry Award

The Swenson Poetry Award is a competitive prize granted annually to an outstanding collection of poetry in English. Open to published and unpublished writers, with no limitation on subject, the competition was named for May Swenson, and honors her as one of America's most vital and provocative poets of the twentieth century. In Joyce Carol Oates's words, Swenson was "a poet of dazzling gifts." During her long career, she published eleven volumes of poems, won the MacArthur Fellowship and numerous other awards, and was praised by writers from virtually every major school of American poetry.

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