

Southern Indiana Review

2025 Michael Waters Poetry Prize

Southern Indiana Review is pleased to announce that Monica Youn has selected Kirsten Kaschock of Baltimore, Maryland, as the recipient of the 2025 Michael Waters Poetry Prize. Kaschock's prize-winning collection, *Docenture: A Tale of Hue as Told by the Estate*, will appear fall 2026.



Kirsten Kaschock, a Pew Fellow in the Arts and Summer Literary Seminars grand prize winner, is the author of six poetry books: *Unfathoms*, *A Beautiful Name for a Girl*, *The Dottery*, *Confessional Science-fiction: A Primer*, *Explain This Corpse*, and *AutoPortrait (as flotsam)* forthcoming from Tupelo Press. Coffee House Press published her debut speculative novel, *Sleight*. A second novel, *An Impossibility of Crows*, winner of the Juniper Prize in fiction, and will be published in 2026 by University of Massachusetts Press.

"In this poet's hands, language regains its primordial parthenogenic plasticity, shooting off whizbang sparks and questing tendrils, burgeoning and bebopping and biomorphing into a "candycornutopia." One can readily imagine Gertrude Stein and Jane Bowles, Don Marquis and Nick Cave booking stays for their next vacations. Welcome to the would-be wonderland that our three docents *d'un certain âge* have fashioned, for themselves and for their undeserving neighbors. With the wit and whimsy come generous helpings of wisdom, about the essentials of belonging and survival. This book will dazzle you, and will make you think."

—Monica Youn, author of *From From* and *Blackacre*

Finalists

- Sébastien Luc Butler: *Viscera*
- Ajla Dizdarevic: *To Belgrade*
- Thomas Dooley: *Made to carry your fires*
- John Dudek: *Steady Habits*
- Maritza Estrada: *Manzana*
- Leila Farjami: *Daughter of Salt*
- Alyssa Jewell: *Creature Constellation*
- Shannan Mann: *God has nothing to do with this*
- Caroline Patterson: *Brat Olympics*
- Freddy Smith: *Resting on hardness*
- Sara Abou Rashed: *Theories of Return*
- Barbara Tomash: *Biography in a Walled Garden*