

Literary Curriculum Vitae – Michelle Elvy

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US born with permanent New Zealand Residency

Profile

- Writer, editor and manuscript assessor (projects, clients, details: michelleelvy.com)
- 2019 publication: *the everrumble*, a small novel in small forms (Ad Hoc Fiction, 2019)
- Editor, *Bonsai: Best small stories from Aotearoa New Zealand* (with Frankie McMillan and James Norcliffe; Canterbury University Press, 2018)
- Assistant editor (international), *Best Small Fictions* series (annually since 2015; guest editors include Robert Olen Butler, Stuart Dybeck, Amy Hempel, Aimee Bender)
- Associate editor, *Flash Fiction International* (W.W. Norton, 2015; editors Christopher Merrill, Robert Shapard, James Thomas)
- Founder and chair, **National Flash Fiction Day** (nationalflash.wordpress.com)
- Editor, *Flash Frontier: An Adventure in Short Fiction* and *Blue Five Notebook*
- Reviews Editor, *takahē* (2019); Guest editor at *SmokeLong Quarterly* (2014, 2015, 2018)
- Member of **New Zealand Society of Manuscript Assessors** and **New Zealand Society of Authors**
- Judge of numerous regional, national and international writing competitions, including IWW Short Story Award (NZ), SIWA Flash Fiction Award, NYC Midnight Flash and Short Story Competitions (US) and Bath Flash Fiction Award (UK)
- Education: BA Tulane University, USA; MA in History, Brown University, USA; Fulbright Scholar, Watson Fellow, DAAD grant recipient for historical study in Germany

Recent Writing Awards

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| NZ Society of Authors mentorship award | <i>For novel, with Fiona Farrell</i> | novel | 2017 |
| Story commendation and short-list (top 5 and top 20, of 748 international submissions) | <i>Bath Flash Fiction Award international competition</i> | Flash fiction | 2016 |
| 2nd in international story prize | <i>Nivalis Short Story Award</i> | Short story | 2016 |
| Short-list for award for novel-in-progress | <i>Grimshaw Sargeson Award</i> | Novel | 2016 |
| Short-list for compressed fiction – two stories | <i>Fish Flash Fiction Award</i> | Flash | 2016 |
| Long-list for travel / sailing memoir excerpt | <i>Fish Memoir Prize</i> | Memoir | 2016 |
| Pushcart Prize nominee for short fiction | <i>Twice nominated for this award</i> | Int'l prize for writing | 2016, 2010 |
| Grant recipient for flash fiction stories based in NZ history -- micro moments in New Zealand History | <i>NZ Society of Authors / Auckland Museum Library</i> | Short story project | 2012 |
| Finalist in international writing contest | <i>Glass Woman Prize</i> | Prize for women | 2011, 12, 13 |
| Winner of opening sentences award | <i>Words with JAM competition</i> | Int'l prize | 2011 |

Current Publications & Works in Progress

Anthology

- *Ko Aotearoa Tātou | We Are New Zealand* (editor, with Paula Morris and James Norcliffe; forthcoming 2020; website [here](#))

Hybrid travel memoir and prose poetry collection

- *It begins and ends with the sea* – sailing memoir chronicling our Pacific crossing in 2008 that brought us to New Zealand

Flash Fiction and short story

- *The other side of better: stories* – a collection of flash fiction completed and seeking publication; advance praise below
- *Flash Back* – a collection of stories based on moments in New Zealand history; began with the 2012 NZ Society of Authors/ Auckland Museum Library Research Grant

Novel

- *Lucky Me* – novel-in-progress, short-listed for the Grimshaw Sargeson Fellowship 201, awarded a NZ Society of Authors mentorship 2017

New Publications & Interviews (more here: <https://michelleelvy.com/publications/>)

Poetry, fiction, travel writing, creative nonfiction and reviews have been widely published and anthologized, most recently in:

- *The Feminine Divine: Voices of Power & Invisibility*, eds. Andrea Fekete & Lara Lillibridge (Cynren Press, US, 2019)
- *New Microfiction: Exceptionally Short Stories*, eds. James Thomas and Robert Scotellaro (W. W. Norton, US, 2018)
- *To Carry Her Home: Bath Flash Fiction Anthology, Vol. 1*, 2018
- *Manifesto: A Political Anthology*, eds. Emma Neale and Philip Temple (Otago University Press, NZ, 2017)
- *Cruising World Magazine*, January 2017
- *Borderlands & Crossroads: Writing the Motherland* (Demeter Press, Canada, 2016)
- *Nivalis* anthology, 2016
- *A Box of Stars Beneath the Bed*, UK flash fiction anthology, 2016

Interviews:

- *takahē*, 2019 ([here](#))
- *New Flash Fiction Review*, 2018 ([here](#))
- *SmokeLong Quarterly*, 2018 ([here](#))
- *The Short Story*, 2018 ([here](#))
- *Bath Flash Fiction Award*, 2016 ([here](#))

Additional Material

Praise for 2019 novel, *the everrumble*

A tour de force, Michelle Elvy's *the everrumble* is a profound, poetic constellation of notes on the Earth's 'alive noises', the hope that lives in the natural world. Zettie's story – her moments of evolving, her capacity to listen and her gift of becoming all the sounds of the earth – affected me to the core.

- Christopher Allen, author of *Other Household Toxins*

Michelle Elvy's acute prose wraps her silent heroine in 'layers of remembered sound', each linked fiction transmitting a luminous sense of the 'loud world' which vibrates her nerve-endings, and tracing her course through a life alert to strange frequencies of experience. *the everrumble* is a story of listening which makes sound 'touch down' under our scalps, taking our senses on a journey of 'orchestral movement'.

- Tracey Slaughter, author of *deleted scenes for lovers*, 2014 Bridport Prize winner

Michelle Elvy's *the everrumble* is an infused and accomplished accumulation of being. The language dances through the reader, elucidating concepts of time and sound and place. In Zettie, acutely conveyed, Elvy gives us a loving homage to our beleaguered planet.

- Catherine McNamara, author of *The Cartography of Others*

With a keen poetic sensibility, *the everrumble* draws the reader into worlds woven with fluidity through time and place. Here is a stunningly original novella crackling with an inner and outer expansive life. These linked stories are rife with an elegant gravitas and a unique approach to what is possible once those doors of perception are swung open and one can see, hear and feel what awaits on the other side.

–Robert Scotellaro, author of *What We Know So Far* and *Bad Motel*

What do you hear when you choose to stop speaking? In this glorious and small-but-enormous book, we meet Zettie, born into a cacophonous world with a talent for perceiving sounds too quiet, too far and too deep for the rest of us – including the everrumble. Elvy paints a dreamy, powerful portrait of the life and travels of this word-collector and thinker who becomes celebrated as a visionary, not for seeing but listening. *the everrumble* will leave you filled with questions about what we miss by not paying attention by filling up the silences.

- Tania Hershman, author of *Some Of Us Glow More Than Others*

Advance praise for *the other side of better: stories*

Cleverly, Michelle Elvy uses the economy of the form to keep her powder dry. Often, the full implication – sometimes enormity – of the story is only realised after the reading is over. The collection as a whole is wonderfully various, and while artfully organised into three sections it does not follow a given programme.

- James Norcliffe

Modern, humane and pacey, Michelle Elvy's short-short stories alternately cause gut-leaps and heart-settlings. In lush prose, she deals equally skilfully with pain and rapture. *the other side of better* is a gorgeous collection about love, the environment, and the things that make people devour and deify each other.

- Nuala Ní Chonchúir, author of *Miss Emily* and *The Closet of Savage Mementos*

Each of the tiny, knowing stories in Michelle Elvy's *the other side of better* bears fruit, but it is the cumulative yield of this lyrical, marvel-laden collection that makes for a luscious, almost mystical, experience.

-Ethel Rohan, author of *Goodnight Nobody* and *Out of Dublin*

These epiphanies could only come alive at the hand of Michelle Elvy. In *the other side of better*, Elvy showcases her considerable flash fiction prowess and flair for innovation. It is a delight to see how she plays with the form and bends it to her will. An impressive collection.

-Kathy Fish, author of *Together We Bury It, Wild and Rift*

Michelle Elvy needs no more than this, the smallest white spaces in which to swim the waters between story and poem with humour, colour, imagination and a sharp grace. Elvy watches and listens to her characters, and the places they dance in, bringing us the darkly joyous truth of life's uncertainties and love's ambiguities.

-Tania Hershman, author of *My Mother Was An Upright Piano: Fictions* and *Some Of Us Glow More Than Others*

the other side of better teems with innovative, intimate adventures, each a microcosm of humanity made capacious through Michelle Elvy's sharp, unique lens.

- Christopher Allen, Editor of *SmokeLong Quarterly*

A writer whose home is the world – an ever-moving life on the sea – Michelle Elvy creates a fiction that is honest in its refusal to be confined by arbitrary standards of expectations. Place is everywhere, life is universal, people are real. This is how her writing begins. The works in *the other side of better* widen narrative constructs and content into different forms – always surprising, always engaging – as if the writing itself demands encounter. To read Elvy's work is to move closer to discovery – is to find a larger view of possibility.

- Sam Rasnake, author of *Cinema Verite* and *Inside a Broken Clock*