

University of Canberra

Paul Hetherington

Prose poems, written by members of the Prose Poetry Project, November 2014 to July 2017, compiled by the editors

Biographical note:

Paul Hetherington is Head of the International Poetry Studies Institute (IPSI) and Professor of Writing in the Faculty of Arts and Design at the University of Canberra. He edited three volumes of the National Library of Australia's four-volume edition of the diaries of the artist Donald Friend and is founding co-editor of the international online journal *Axon: Creative Explorations*. He has published ten full-length poetry collections, most recently *Burnt Umber* (UWA Publishing, 2016).

That night I held you in the shower – a grown woman,
ill, naked, with a broken bowl's shards in your hair.
Semi-conscious you leaned against me and I
remembered your weight, a few weeks old in my free
left hand, as if afloat on fingers; as if magic-carpeted
on air. The weight was the same, reaching through my
body with love's ceaseless amplitude, holding in my
fingers as they combed out glass. The shower joined
us, as when you were young, lying on your mother's
belly in a furred rumination of light.

(from *Seam* 2015)