

**Australian National University**

**Maggie Shapley**

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

Biographical note:

Maggie Shapley is a Canberra poet and University Archivist at the Australian National University. She won the 2003 ACT Writers Centre Poetry Award and her poems have been published in literary journals, anthologies and on Canberra buses as co-winners of the Poetry in Action Prize 2007 to 2009.

In the room with mirrored walls, we danced with words, catching sunlit glimpses of ourselves as we sashayed and side-stepped and spun. Exuberance spent, we stepped out on the terrace to test our phrasing, the humid air held us close till words found their right places, and the sky widened with the possibility of other rooms, of abundant gardens to explore on other days. Out of the silence the bright murmur of your voice, 'I am here, I am here, I am here', a string of amber beads around my neck.

(from *Pulse* 2016)