

Perverse Verse

Michael Gould



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Perverse Verse, short poems, previously published and new. Humorous (often black) yet reflective. Poetry from someone outside the mainstream of contemporary poetry (outside academia). It will appeal to baby boomers, the hip general and literate reader and lovers of wordplay.

Themes: youth/ageing; success/failure; love/sex/ relationships; nature/ the environment/technology; identity/mental health/illness. The author explores how we live now in our contemporary screwed-up world using sophisticated wit and a liberal use of rhyme. Readers need not labour trying to de-code the poems because the language is accessible and clear; there is no obscurity. Frankness and provocation abound.

PRAISE

“... (The poems are) scathing, direct, abrasive, deflationary, peremptory, cartoonish, witty, iconoclastic ... poems that work on more than one level, that have a twist or take the reader by surprise because they end up in a different place to where they started, or are good because they tell a relatable personal story the reader can identify with or empathises with ... there is a clear personal voice, a signature or tone that is in tune with itself ... (The) best poems are very good indeed ... internationalist ... strong and distinctive, even pungent ... the self-deprecation, the acquired modesty, and the bare unadorned quality of the verse owe a lot to language as used in conversation and in traditions of unassuming presentation.”

David Eggleton, NZ Poet Laureate (2019 – 2022)

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael Gould is the author of the iconoclastic *Surrealism and the Cinema: Open-eyed Screening* (1976) one of the first books in English on this topic. Choosing not to pursue the expected career path (academia) he opted for a life of adventure, travel and (some very) odd jobs, then settled into a quiet mid-life in Aotearoa New Zealand. Now, in his early seventies, his poems have appeared in publications, both academic and popular, here and in Australia, the UK, the USA and Canada. In 2021, in his early seventies he was awarded by the New Zealand Society of Authors as an “emerging writer”.

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