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2009 Drue Heinz Literature Prize awarded to California native

PITTSBURGH—Anne Sanow has been named the 2009 winner of the Drue Heinz Literature Prize, one of the nation’s most prestigious awards for a book of short stories. Sanow’s manuscript, tentatively titled *Triple Time*, was selected by best-selling author Ann Patchett from a field of nearly 300 entries. The collection will be published by the University of Pittsburgh Press this fall.

Patchett stated, “This is the kind of manuscript that reminds me why people want to become editors and agents, and why writers are willing to judge contests: you hope that among the bad manuscripts and the good ones and the very good ones there will be one that is great. This book is great.”

The 42-year-old Sanow, who resides in Provincetown, Massachusetts, explained she is deeply inspired by place and landscape, and how the sweep of history in a particular place is experienced on a personal level by those who live there. The stories in *Triple Time* are set in Saudi Arabia and linked by various characters over a 50-year span, from the end of World War II to the mid-1990s.

“My characters are native Saudis and expatriates going about their lives and loves and losses and discovering who they are and where they belong,” Sanow said. “My interest as a writer is to try to avoid easy exoticism by working from the inside out, character by character and place by place, so that somehow, the epic and minute become enmeshed.”

Recalling her reaction to winning the Drue Heinz prize, Sanow said, “It was a surprise both humbling and exhilarating—I’m thrilled to become part of a tradition that truly believes in and supports the art of the short story.”

Born and raised in California, Sanow moved to Saudi Arabia for two years following high school graduation. She has a BA in English from George Mason University and an MFA from Washington University in St. Louis. Her fiction has been published in *The Kenyon Review*, *Shenandoah*, *Other Voices*, *New Orleans Review* and *Web Conjunctions*, among others. She has received four Pushcart Prize nominations. Twice a fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Sanow has received fellowships and residencies from the MacDowell Colony, the Edward F. Albee Foundation, the Jentel Artist Residency Program, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, among others. She currently lives on Cape Cod, where she is an editor and writing instructor.