

Poetry Award Winner

Thank you to everyone who entered the recent Indigo International Wild Nature Poetry Award, created and managed by League Poet in Residence, Ronnie Goodyer. We were delighted to award our long-term supporter Sally King, winner of the League member category.

'Small Men' by Sally King

Bred in barren cages, row upon row
into the distance - boundless and bare.
Reared in pens, fed with grain, and guarded
by snares, traps, poisons, the calls of captive birds,
the bullet through the wing of a raptor,
the bullet through the heart of a white mountain hare.

More than fifty million tame birds
released from their pens come autumn,
to dash across unfamiliar roads,
to die in bitter frosts, these birds of Asia,
to be beaten to the firing squad,
to the line of guns: small men in breeches.

A single bird flies high, higher still,
away from the guns, trying to escape.
They all take aim - a living target.
Shots across the field. He falters, wounded.
A bronze arc across the sky. Falling.
Cheering. I did not cheer. For small men.

