**UNIVERSITY OF NEW ORLEANS PRESS**

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*Animal Truth* Wins University of New Orleans Press Lab Prize CONTACT: G.K. Darby, Managing Editor | 504.280.7457 | gkdarby1@uno.edu

NEW ORLEANS, LA: Today the University of New Orleans Press announces that Sharona Muir is the winner of the seventh annual University of New Orleans Press Lab Prize, which comes with a $10,000 advance and a contract to publish in fall 2022. A professor of Creative Writing and English at Bowling Green State University, Muir won the Lab competition with *Animal Truth*, an ethereal, erudite collection of eco-fabulist short fiction.

Muir’s debut novel, *Invisible Beasts*, was praised in *O, the Oprah Magazine*, as a ‘Title ﻿to Pick Up Now,’ and was a finalist for the Orion Prize. She is a recipient of the National ﻿Endowment for the Arts fellowship in poetry; the Alfred Hodder fellowship from Princeton ﻿University; three Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence fellowships in fiction, nonfiction and ﻿poetry; and other awards. Muir has authored four books including a memoir from Random ﻿House/Schocken Books and a first volume of poetry from Harper & Row.

By turns playful, terrifying, haunting, and sensuous, the stories in this collection inspire wonder at the interwoven lives of human and nonhuman beings. They are both madly inventive and scientifically literate, and (to cite Anthony Doerr’s praise for her work) “absolutely original.”

UNO Press editor Chelsey Shannon agrees. “The tones of this poetic collection are ranging: existential, esoteric, philosophical, funny, intimate—and always interrogating the tension between the deepest mysteries and truths. It’s a strikingly intelligent book that sparkles with insight about human, and animal, nature. *Animal Truth* is a winner in every sense.”