

Advance Information

Refurbishment

By Joy Howard

Refurbishment is Joy Howard's second collection of poetry and the first from Ward Wood. Widely anthologised from the 80s, her more recent poetry has also been published in magazines and online. Her poems are typically thoughtful and incisive, and shot through with a unique combination of dry humour, sharp insight, musicality and lyricism that fixes them in the mind.

'Conscious of the subtle liveliness of words, their power, their history, she finds her diction in the everyday; her verse-forms are shaped by dialect and by 'found' material and use of Anglo-Saxon alliterative patterns. She deals with an equally wide range of subjects, from the notoriously unmanageable C18 racehorse Whistlejacket to a WWII collaborator, from Uccello's St George to a moth-collector.

A good ear, a dry wit and an epigrammatic precision combine to bring all these - and many other - subjects to vivid life in *Refurbishment*. Aware of 'the smash and grab of centuries', Howard plays her part in celebrating 'the ecstasy of colour and the dream of faith' in this impressive and rewarding collection. *Refurbishment* will touch you, will make you laugh, will make you feel and think. The very fine title poem alone is worth the price.'

R V Bailey

About *The Knife*: 'This poem has a gorgeous quality (in the best sense). Very physical, without indulging in too much detail, it allows us to feel our way into a way of being that is at once closer to the natural world than our own and deeply rooted in its own - not specifically identified - craft and story tradition. A fine poem that balances mystery and physicality in equal parts.'

John Burnside, The Guardian Poetry Workshop

About *Weekends with Leah*: 'This is a prime example of how it's more effective to use an image than describe emotions head on. The image of the string of beads perfectly captures each cherished visit. A fine and moving poem.'

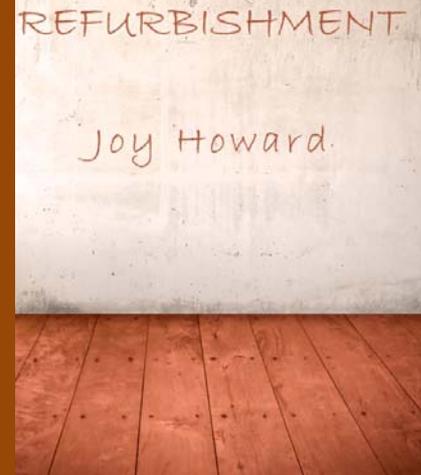
Pascale Petit

About poems from *SecondBite* (joint pamphlet 2007): 'Funny, feisty. Howard's work catches hold of a new way to voice our feelings and runs with it.'

Dilys Wood ARTEMIS

Joy lives in West Yorkshire where she runs her poetry press for older women, Grey Hen and organises readings across the country. Joy's previous collection, *Exit Moonshine* (2009), is a selection of Joy's poems from her 1980s 'coming out' experiences. Joy is a founder member of Second Bite, a group of three older women poets from West Yorkshire, who do readings together. She has edited three Grey Hen Press anthologies, and published a collection of her own poems *Exit Moonshine*. Her poems have been published in numerous anthologies and magazines, and can be found online at Guardian Unlimited, Lavender Review and poetry pf.

www.wardwoodpublishing.co.uk



REFURBISHMENT

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