

*Eden in the Rearview Mirror* (Word Press, 2007)

Honorable Mention

2007 Posner Poetry Book Award

Council for Wisconsin Writers

Judge: Bruce Bennett

Judge's Comments:

I have chosen Susan Elbe's *Eden in the Rearview Mirror* for Honorable Mention.

The poems Susan Elbe offers in *Eden in the Rearview Mirror* are haunting, suggestive, genuinely mysterious. A main preoccupation is to "limn" borders, geographical but especially psychic and psychological ones, and that "uncharted territory" lying beyond them: "What we have no words for/still needs to be said." In strikingly original images and with a "heart attentive and engaged," Susan Elbe chronicles a journey of longing and acceptance. "Because in the dark thicket//of our many selves, who wouldn't/want to light the trees,/who could not want this world?" she writes in "Why I Decided to Be Born," and, in another poem, "I say nothing is enough. Let me live/forever this life that exhausts/and scares me witless...."

*Eden in the Rearview Mirror* is a moving and memorable collection, a book to be grateful for.