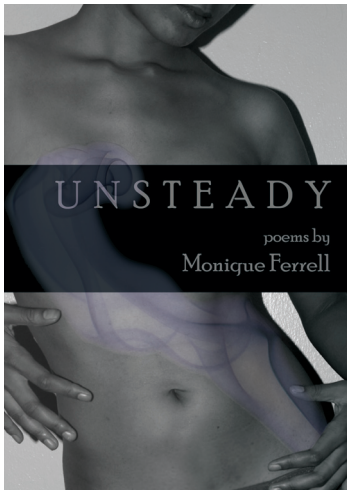


# Press Release

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## NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *Unsteady* by Monique Ferrell



November 15, 2011 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Unsteady* by Monique Ferrell. In this, her first full-length collection of poetry and dramatic monologues, is an examination of a life in progress. The verse in this collection delves deeply into such themes as race, class, violence, gentrification, sexuality, celebrity, love, and politics. It is designed to explore the life issues of which we are all so certain, but hopes to express that uncertainty—being unsteady—is normal and can lend itself to deep reflection and creativity. In its pages, you will find poems about infamous cultural figures like Billie Holiday, Mike Tyson, and Tennessee Williams. Additionally, the reader will find poems about a mother who made a difficult and irrevocable decision during Hurricane Katrina, and about the late Lashaundra Armstrong—a woman who drove herself and her five children into the Hudson River during the winter of 2011. It is a visceral examination of things that matter to the writer, and in the end, after your own examination, things that will matter to you as well.

Maria Mazziotti Gillan, Editor of the *Paterson Literary Review*, says, "Monique Ferrell's book *Unsteady* is a powerful, passionate, blues song that teaches us about grief and loss and survival. It is full of muscular, energetic language and poems, and above all, it is unforgettable. Ferrell is a poet to be read over and over. She pulls us into her world and makes us see it through her amazing eyes." And George Guida, author of *Low Italian* and *New York and Other Lovers*, says, "Monique Ferrell's poems are porcelain figurines, finely wrought, chipped in places, smiling wryly, and brought to life as Billie Holiday, Dorothy Dandridge, Mike Tyson, your mother, your sister, your brother, your child, your half-scrutable closest friend. Her poet's voice penetrates the silence of their heartache and regret with a feeling for lost feeling and a steely staccato songbook all her own. Ferrell's art simply matters."

Monique S. Ferrell is a Professor of English in New York City. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY in the neighborhood affectionately known as Bed-Stuy. A portion of her writing focuses on that neighborhood, specifically the social and cultural challenges that impact issues of race, community, and gender. Outside of her academic pursuits, she is a widely published and anthologized poet and fiction writer. She frequently reads and lectures at colleges and universities across the country and has appeared as a featured guest at several creative writing events.

Her first prose collection, *Black Body Parts*, was published in 2001 by Cross+Roads Press. She is currently at work on completing her short-fiction collection *Impetus*. Her book of feminist criticism *Her Own Worst Enemy: The Eternal Internal Gender Wars of Our Sisters* is due to be released in the fall of 2012.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.



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