



John Clines, ©2007

Like Tom Waits' baby sister and Neruda's grand-daughter, [Leslie's] new gritty narratives seduce as easily as they caution; soothe as easily as they trouble. They "make a mark on [our] silence, / tell [us] something holy and born" about the poetry of desire.
— Terrance Hayes

liquid like this

leslie anne mcilroy



Liquid Like This

Book Launch & Performance

Leslie Anne Mcilroy with Guitarist Don Bertschman

Saturday, July 26, 5:30 p.m.
Thunderbird Cafe
4023 Butler St., Lawrenceville
Free & open to the public

We start with a poem, but push to expand and express its emotional center in an intensely interactive way. This process — allowing music and language to speak to each other — deepens the book's themes: fluidity in birth/death, love/loss, hate/forgiveness, sex/solitude, the political and personal. The performance has become a journey — something bigger than a collection of individual poems — an experience that communicates beyond written language.

For more information, visit lamcilroy.com

**Pittsburgh Poet Leslie Anne Mcilroy Launches New Book
with Collaborative Performance at Thunderbird Café, July 26**

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(July 26, 2008) Pittsburgh, PA — Pittsburgh poet **Leslie Anne Mcilroy** will launch her new book, *Liquid Like This* (Word Press, 2008), with a collaborative poetry-and-music performance at **The Thunderbird Café, 4023 Butler St. in Lawrenceville** on **Saturday, July 26, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.**

Mcilroy won the 1997 Slipstream Poetry Prize for her chapbook *Gravel* and the 2001 Word Press Poetry Prize for her book *Rare Space*. “In *Liquid Like This* she intensifies her talent for seeking and seeing both sides of truth, bridging the beautiful and the profane. Like Tom Waits’ baby sister and Neruda’s granddaughter, her new gritty narratives seduce as easily as they caution; soothe as easily as they trouble,” writes poet Terrance Hayes.

In addition to reading from the new book at the launch, Mcilroy will perform with guitarist **Don Bertschman**. “For me, live presentation of poetry is vital,” says Mcilroy. “The way you read can add dimension to your work. By collaborating with artists in other media, I am challenged to take different risks, to explore larger, more dynamic emotional terrain.”

In the past, Mcilroy performed with musician Byron Nash and his band Sporadic. She is currently working with photographer Scott Roller on a series marrying poetic language with images of decay and beauty — blank billboards and marquees — he captured on his travels down Route 66.

Mcilroy says her collaboration with Bertschman has centered uniquely on a shared creation, in the moment, rather than responding to or integrating finished work. “Don and I have tried to enter each piece together,” says Mcilroy. “We start with a poem, but then push to expand and express its emotional center in an intensely interactive way. This process — allowing music and language to speak to each other — led us to make choices that heighten the book’s themes: fluidity in birth/death, love/loss, hate/forgiveness, sex/solitude, the political and personal. The performance, as a whole, has become a story or journey — something bigger than the individual poems — an experience that communicates beyond written language.”

Mcilroy will have copies of *Liquid Like This* available for sale and signing at the performance, which is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.lamcilroy.com.