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Contact: M'Bilia Meekers
225.578.5104 / mmeekers@lsu.edu

Doug Ramspeck's New Poetry Collection Forthcoming in September
LSU Press to publish Black Flowers

"In his powerful new book of poems, *Black Flowers*, Doug Ramspeck forges a ghostly language of the natural order, less to domesticate the animal than to animate the human, to explore, via imaginative seeing, our instinctual birthright of grief, love, and 'commotion / of need.' Such is the gift here, the power of communion with the unknown, however wounding, wounded, or aloof, the cut grass 'not an antidote to death / but its companion.' A deeply beautiful book."—Bruce Bond, author of *Blackout Starlight: New and Selected Poems, 1997-2015*

Baton Rouge— In dark, lyrical verse, *Black Flowers* follows a speaker from childhood into adulthood, as he navigates the animistic world of crows, conjurings, and winter snows. Doug Ramspeck guides readers through the brutality and beauty found in the natural world: the moonlight, "marrow-white, severed, falling bodily / to grass, the hours as permeable as clay" and "dust lifting across the road / as though to form a human shape." By juxtaposing euphony and clear, startling imagery, Ramspeck's novelistic new collection molds the landscape to reflect the speaker's memories and the challenges of growing up in a dysfunctional family. In the tradition of William Wordsworth, *Black Flowers* brings the flourishes of the Romantics to the grit of the present day.

Doug Ramspeck is associate professor of English at The Ohio State University at Lima and the author of six collections of poetry and one collection of short stories. His prize-winning work has been published in a range of journals, including *The Southern Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Georgia Review*, *storySouth*, and *The American Literary Review*.

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Poetry

To request a review copy or set up an interview with the author,
please contact M'Bilia Meekers at mmeekers@lsu.edu.

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