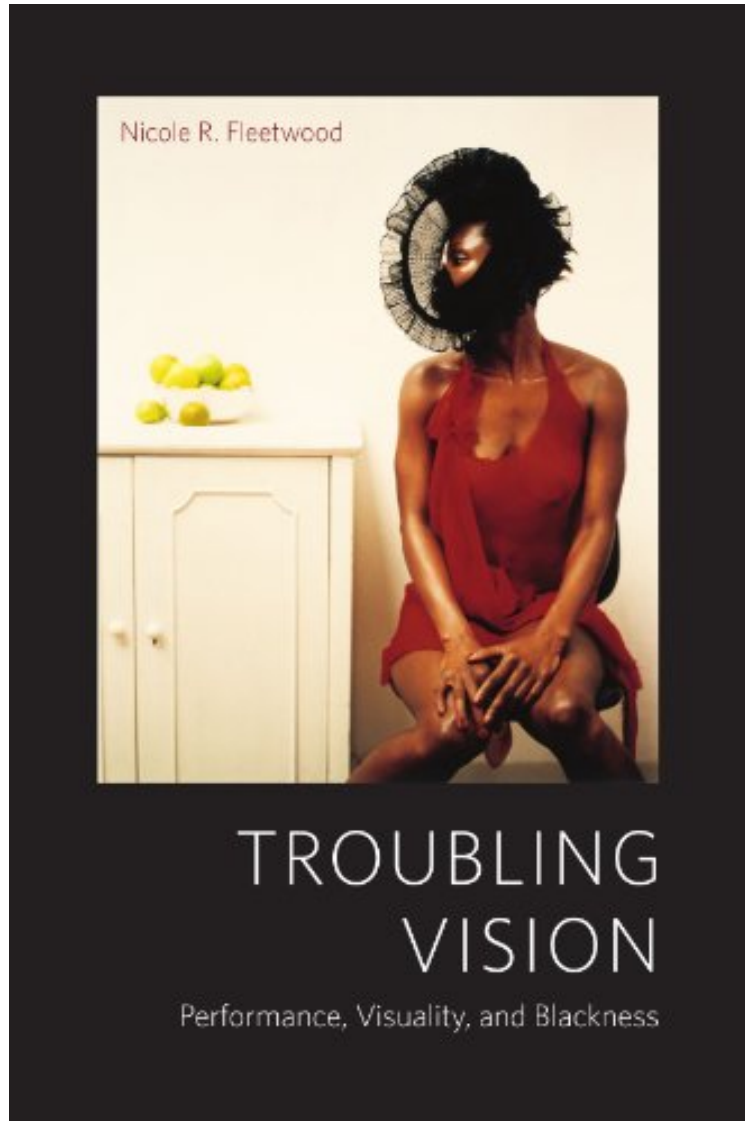


## Troubling Vision: Performance, Visuality, and Blackness

*Nicole R. Fleetwood*

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**Nicole R. Fleetwood : Troubling Vision: Performance, Visuality, and Blackness** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Troubling Vision: Performance, Visuality, and Blackness:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A corrective lens for our collective visionBy Sussu"Troubling vision" is an insightful and wide-ranging work of impeccable scholarship. It is accessible to readers outside academia, while it grapples with complex, highly theoretical concepts. Fleetwood analyzes visuality and blackness in popular

music, conceptual art as well as family and neighborhood portraiture and other forms of cultural production. It is specifically this great breadth of material that illustrates the reach of her concepts. While showing how our vision is troubled and troubling, she suggests and discovers strategies of survival and subversion, and never loses sight of the whole while she examines the particulars. This book is essential reading for anyone interested in issues of perception and projection, and of race and class. In fact, I feel that everyone who thinks they know what they think about these issues, should read Fleetwood's book. She probes gently and insistently, requesting that the reader study the artists she discusses as nakedly as some of them perform.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. sophisticated, readable theory  
By onlinej Teaching this in my current doctoral seminar on African American visual aesthetics. Really glad I chose it to teach even before I'd finished reading all of it. Smart, insightful, lucid.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One Star  
By Ashley Lauderdale the book smelt like rotten hot dogs for some reason ???

Troubling Vision addresses American cultures fixation on black visibility, exploring how blackness is persistently seen as a problem in public culture and even in black scholarship that challenges racist discourse. Through trenchant analysis, Nicole R. Fleetwood reorients the problem of black visibility by turning attention to what it means to see blackness and to the performative codes that reinforce, resignify, and disrupt its meaning. Working across visual theory and performance studies, Fleetwood asks, How is the black body visualized as both familiar and disruptive? How might we investigate the black body as a troubling presence to the scopoc regimes that define it as such? How is value assessed based on visible blackness? Fleetwood documents multiple forms of engagement with the visual, even as she meticulously underscores how the terms of engagement change in various performative contexts. Examining a range of practices from the documentary photography of Charles Teenie Harris to the excess flesh performances of black female artists and pop stars to the media art of Fatimah Tuggar to the iconicity of Michael Jackson, Fleetwood reveals and reconfigures the mechanics, codes, and metaphors of blackness in visual culture. Troubling Vision is a path-breaking book that examines the problem of seeing blackness—the simultaneous hyper-visibility and invisibility of African Americans in US visual culture in the last half century. Weaving together critical modes and methodologies from performance studies, art history, critical race studies, visual culture analysis, and gender theory, Fleetwood expands Du Bois's idea of double vision into a broad questioning of whether representation itself will resolve the problem of the black body in the field of vision. With skilled attention to historical contexts, documentary practices, and media forms, she takes up the works of a broad variety of cultural producers, from photographers and playwrights to musicians and visual artists and examines black spectatorship as well as black spectacle. In chapters on the trope of non-iconicity in the photographs of Charles (Teenie) Harris, the visible seams in the digital images of the artist Fatimah Tuggar, and a coda on the un-dead Michael Jackson, Fleetwood's close analyses soar. Troubling Vision is a beautifully written, original, and important addition to the field of American Studies. Announcement of the American Studies Association for the 2012 Lora Romero First Book Publication Prize

A compelling contribution to scholarship on blackness and visibility, this text provides a heterogeneous yet complimentary sampling of black visual artists who, in method and form, challenge that power-laden visual exchange by exposing their flesh in excess, by making doubly visible the seams holding dominant discourses together, and by celebrating the non-iconic, everyday performances of blackness.