One of our interests is in how art and society interact. How do you get to the truth, incorporating but also going beyond the simple facts? I have never read a book like *A Shadow on Our Hearts*, which uses poetry to explore history, philosophy and morality. Does anyone talk about these things in this post-truth world? Good art makes you feel and this book will make you cry and be angry at what we do to our fellow humans.

**A Shadow on Our Hearts:**

*Soldier-Poetry, Morality, and the American War in Vietnam*

by Adam Gilbert ($32.95, University of Massachusetts Press)

Books will be available

A Conversation and Reading with Contributors

John Baky, Jan Barry, W.D. Ehrhart, Gerald McCarthy, Lamont B. Steptoe

The American war in Vietnam was one of the most morally contentious events of the twentieth century, and it produced an extraordinary outpouring of poetry. Yet the complex ethical terrain of the conflict is remarkably underexplored, and the prodigious poetic voice of its American participants remains largely unheard. In *A Shadow on Our Hearts*, Adam Gilbert rectifies these oversights by utilizing the vast body of soldier-poetry to examine the war’s core moral issues.

The soldier-poets provide important insights into the ethical dimensions of their physical and psychological surroundings before, during, and after the war. They also offer profound perspectives on the relationships between American soldiers and the Vietnamese people. From firsthand experiences, they reflect on what it meant to be witnesses, victims, and perpetrators of the war’s violence. And they advance an uncompromising vision of moral responsibility that indicts a range of culprits for the harms caused by the conflict. Gilbert explores the powerful and perceptive work of these soldier-poets through the lens of morality and presents a radically alternative, deeply personal, and ethically penetrating account of the American war in Vietnam.

“This is the real deal – the big book on soldier-poetry of the Vietnam War that we have waited s half a century to get written.” Philip Beidler, author of *American Literature and the Experience of Vietnam*

For information: [www.moonstoneartscenter.org](http://www.moonstoneartscenter.org) or 215-735-9600

Moonstone Arts Center office

110A S. 13th Street, Philadelphia PA 19107,
215-735-9600, larry@moonstoneartscenter.org

[www.moonstoneartscenter.org](http://www.moonstoneartscenter.org)