Experiencing & Remembering: The Poetry & Spirit of Nature
EXHIBITION COMPANION

Exhibition Takeaways
1. Reflect on the connection between nature and art
2. Deepen your understanding of poetry in an abstract context
3. Recognize the power of artistic expression

Reflection Activity
TIME NEEDED: 40 MINS. | MATERIALS NEEDED: WRITING UTENSIL AND PAPER
Below is an activity to guide your reflections on the exhibition experience, including your emotions and artistic mindset.

Directions
Provide students with a specified amount of time (suggested 15-20 minutes) to write down or draw their response to the Experiencing & Remembering exhibition.

Students can address a specific artwork or the poem, a piece that resonated with their own life, any questions that came to mind, or any emotions Experiencing & Remembering brought up for them.

Students are encouraged to jot down any emotions, thoughts, etc. that come to mind when they think about this exhibit.

Check out the exhibit digitally here!
bit.ly/GealtExhibit

Notes
Consider
Before beginning the discussion, encourage students to reflect on the following concepts:

Art and Nature
Gealt is one of many artists that take inspiration from nature. The idea of nature in the United States typically surrounds the untouched world around us – trees, waterfalls, rocks, and lush grass.

Poetry and Nature
Gealt was particularly taken by Mary Oliver’s poem Philip’s Birthday and believed it to represent a gift given. Gealt saw this show as a gift given to his community, but he also appreciates the small gifts we find in nature each day.

Discussion
After students have finished writing or drawing their thoughts, discuss in a group the following:

1. In one to two words, everyone describes how they are feeling after exploring the exhibition
2. What is something you wrote down or drew?
3. Was the experience what you expected? Why or why not?
4. Did any elements of the artwork or poetry stick out to you?
5. What was most interesting or confusing to you and why?
6. Do you feel like you understand the connection between nature and art better?
7. How might you carry what you learned and/or experienced into your profession?

Key Themes

The Power Behind Expression:
Artistic expression has the power to influence and inspire others, much like how Barry Gealt and Mary Oliver have done with their works. How do you inspire others with your expressions?

Inspired by Connections:
Gealt’s works are inspired by what he saw in nature and how it connected to his own life. What inspires you? What did you connect to your own life as you explored Experiencing & Remembering?

Thank you for exploring our exhibit today!