

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.

Notes

Check out the
exhibit
digitally here!



bit.ly/GealtExhibit

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.

“Seeing nature each day shapes what I paint: the movement of air, the power of water, the magic of light, the shifting clouds, movement of trees, and the texture of bark. My materials remain themselves as they speak of the timelessness of a moment in the natural world.”

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!