

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS

[Dotted box for descriptive words]

NOUNS

[Dotted box for nouns]

Haiku

5 Syllabals
7 Syllabals
5 Syllabals

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CAPTURING A MOMENT

In Passages Do Ho Suh captures a moment in time. His translucent structures are like ghosts, visual memories of the homes he has lived in. The Rubbing/Loving and Specimen series use rubbings as a medium allowing time to stand still by creating a snapshot of interior spaces.

Haiku is a poetic form limited to only a few words. These short poems are non-rhyming, set in the present tense and follow a prescribed syllabic pattern.

The traditional Japanese poetic form focuses on nature and includes a “seasonal word” however modern haiku has broadened to include urban landscapes and even humor. In the essay, Contemporary Haiku: Origins and New Directions (www.webdelsol.com), A.C. Missias states: “Haiku is more than a form of poetry; it is a way of seeing the world. Each haiku captures a moment of experience; an instant when the ordinary suddenly reveals its inner nature and makes us take a second look at the event, at human nature, at life.

- Introduce the haiku template. This is a common haiku formula used by poets in the west and is a bit longer than the traditional Japanese poem. It is composed using 17 syllables in a 5-7-5 pattern.
- Following the exhibition tour have the students sit on the gallery floor and discuss the idea of capturing a moment in time.
- Have the students use their hands to create a viewfinder reducing their field of vision. Have them focus on what they see. Discuss what they notice once the larger space is reduced to this small detail.
- What words would they use to describe this moment in time? Using the haiku template have the students brainstorm descriptive words and nouns.
- Share examples of haiku poetry with the students. Since the poems are short and restricted to 17 syllables note how important each word is and how powerful the language becomes.
- Have the students write haikus that capture a moment. This can be what they see and or the emotions they experienced touring the exhibition.

*This Gallery Activity can be extended in the ArtLab by creating haiku paintings to illustrate the poems.