

## MAUREEN SHERBONDY'S EKPHRASTIC POETRY WORKSHOP

Ekphrastic poetry uses images from art for inspiration. For examples of ekphrastic poetry, refer to *The Store of Joys: Writers Celebrate North Carolina Museum of Art's Fiftieth Anniversary*, edited by Huston Paschal, which features poems inspired by the North Carolina Museum of Art's collection.<sup>i</sup> The following steps offer aspiring poets the opportunity to use the same method.

1. Read two poems from the *Store of Joys* to see how other North Carolina poets responded to art.
2. Select an art print to which you have an emotional reaction.
3. Write about what you see. What does the image bring to mind? Write about the theme and the plot. Engage the senses: How does it smell, feel, sound, taste, and look? Use colors, images, and comparisons.
4. Think about form: stanzas, lines, sounds, rhyme patterns, breaks, and length.
5. Revision (Think of it as *re-visioning*): Add to and take away from the poem. Replace boring words or add repetition of sounds or a title.

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<sup>i</sup> For more information on *The Store of Joys*, go to <http://www.blairpub.com/alltitles/storejoys.htm>.