

\*Assignment is based on the painting, “Raro Te Oviri” (Under the Pandanus) by Paul Gauguin. However, this activity could be used with most works of art.

**Goal:** Look at a painting, or other work of art, and have a sensory experience addressing the 5 senses. Make a sensory connection with this particular object, or be inspired by the object and recall another personal sensory related experience. Share this connection in a 6 word story.

**Activity:** Guests will be asked to first look at the object, but then go beyond the visual and imagine the object impacting all 5 senses (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste).

**Introduction:** Good afternoon and welcome to Mia. While looking at several art objects today we are going to go **beyond the visual**, and have a **full body** art experience, **engaging the 5 senses**. As we explore the art objects, we would like you to imagine physically being in the painting, experiencing the sounds, smells, textures and tastes, in addition to what you see. So let’s begin our **sensory journey**. Our first stop is a painting by Paul Gauguin.

Take a moment to **look** at the painting, visually taking in the scene and composition.

**What do you see?** (*ocean, sky, trees, people, dog*)

Now, consider this painting beyond your sense of sight. **Imagine that you are physically in this scene and are experiencing this painting using ALL your senses.**

**What do you hear?** (*waves crashing, conversation, dog barking*)

**What do you smell?** (*Salt air, fresh produce, perfume of vegetation*)

**What do you feel (touch)?** (*breeze, damp earth, weight of load carrying*)

**What do you taste?** (*fresh produce, salty*)

After this initial exploration, guests will then be asked to create a sensory related story (6 word story) either based on their reaction to the object, another object in the gallery, or a personal sense-related memory/ experience. Guests will have the opportunity to share their 6 word stories if they choose.

\* Author Ernest Hemmingway is credited for inspiring a form of writing called “flash fiction” or “sudden fiction”. This is the art of sharing your story in 6 carefully chosen words to convey your message, meaning or experience. The challenge is in selecting words that focus on the most central ideas.

- Use the object we just looked at as sensory inspiration.
- Use the object we just looked at to trigger your own sensory related memory.
- Recall a personal sensory memory, unrelated to the object observed, as inspiration.

- Use another object in this gallery as inspiration.

**Examples of 6 word stories:**

Debbie (related to object): **Their beautiful home, our vacation destination.**

Ingrid (personal memory inspired by object): **Barefoot beach, salty breath, relax, repeat.**

Lucy: (sensory experience, unrelated to object): **New bike, very steep hill, dentalwork.**

**Activity: Write a 6 word story focusing on a sensory related experience.**

\* Guests will be provided with pencils and a notecard. Guests are invited to move about the gallery for a few moments while they write their story (sit on the benches or chairs, look at other works for inspiration, etc.). Guests will have approximately 5 minutes to write their 6 word story and experience the gallery before they are invited to come back as a group.

**Conclusion:** Guests will be invited to share their 6 word story with the group. Guests will also be invited to turn in their 6 word story to be “published” on our closed Junior Docent Facebook page. When the stories are published, authors can be identified or remain anonymous.

- Another way to “publish” the 6 word stories would be for museum tour guests to take a selfie next to the inspiration object. Guests would be encouraged to post their 6 word story, along with their Mia selfie on their preferred form of social media (ie: Facebook, Instagram, etc.).

**Conclusion:** While hard to do living in Minnesota in February, it is time to leave Tahiti and the tropics to explore our next object, an urban setting. As we continue our tour, your challenge is to go beyond **seeing** and **experience the art with all five senses**.