

# SCREEN | Erin Dorney Question the Body

## **Ekphrastic Writing Prompts**

An ekphrastic poem is a poem inspired or  
stimulated by a work of art

**Prompt 1: Write a poem about a journey you are taking, including the items you are bringing with you.**



Image: Anne Neely, "Portrait of the Artist" from *Skirting the Line*



**Prompt 2: Write about what is happening just outside the frame.**

**One thing to remember when you're doing constraint-based writing is that you can write anything and everything that comes to mind. The main goal is to keep your pen or pencil moving for as long as you can in order to see what comes out. You might be surprised...**



Image: Hannah Wade, "Dog Fountain" from *Skirting the Line*





**Prompt 3: Make a list of ten things you feel when you look at this video still. Circle the 4th from the bottom and expand on it further. Make it into a poem that specifically references looking at the work of art.**

**When you're writing a poem, your first draft doesn't have to make sense. You never even have to show it to anyone. Maybe you will end up finding a word combination that's the perfect title for your new painting. Maybe you'll unearth the plot for your next novel. Just keep your pen moving.**

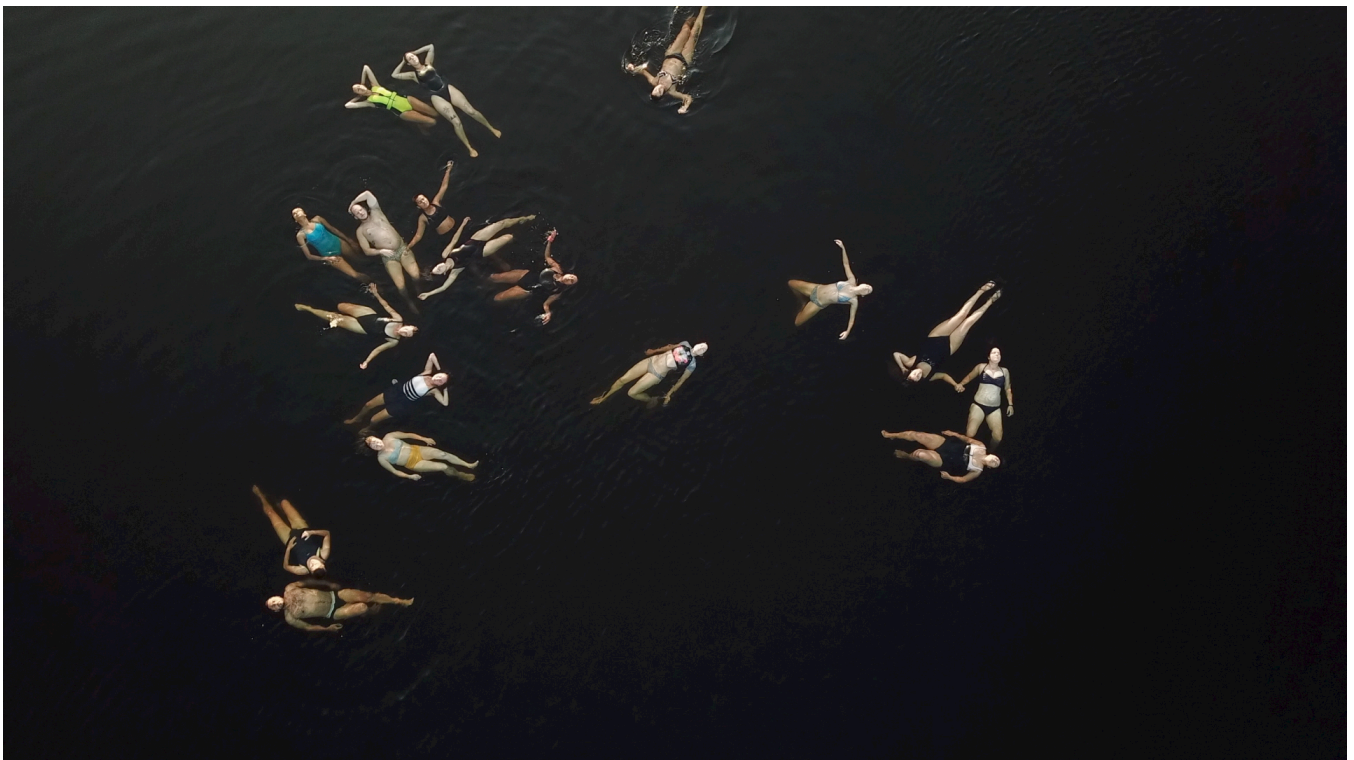


Image: Erin Johnson, "Lake (Skowhegan, ME)" from Unnamed for Decades (video still)





It's important to give the artist credit when you're doing #ekphrastic writing. Make sure you write down the name of the artist and the title of the work that inspired your piece. Give them credit if you publish your work someday—it's the right thing to do.

**Prompt 4:** Write for 2 minutes about a time your body failed you. Write for 7 minutes about a time your body made you proud.

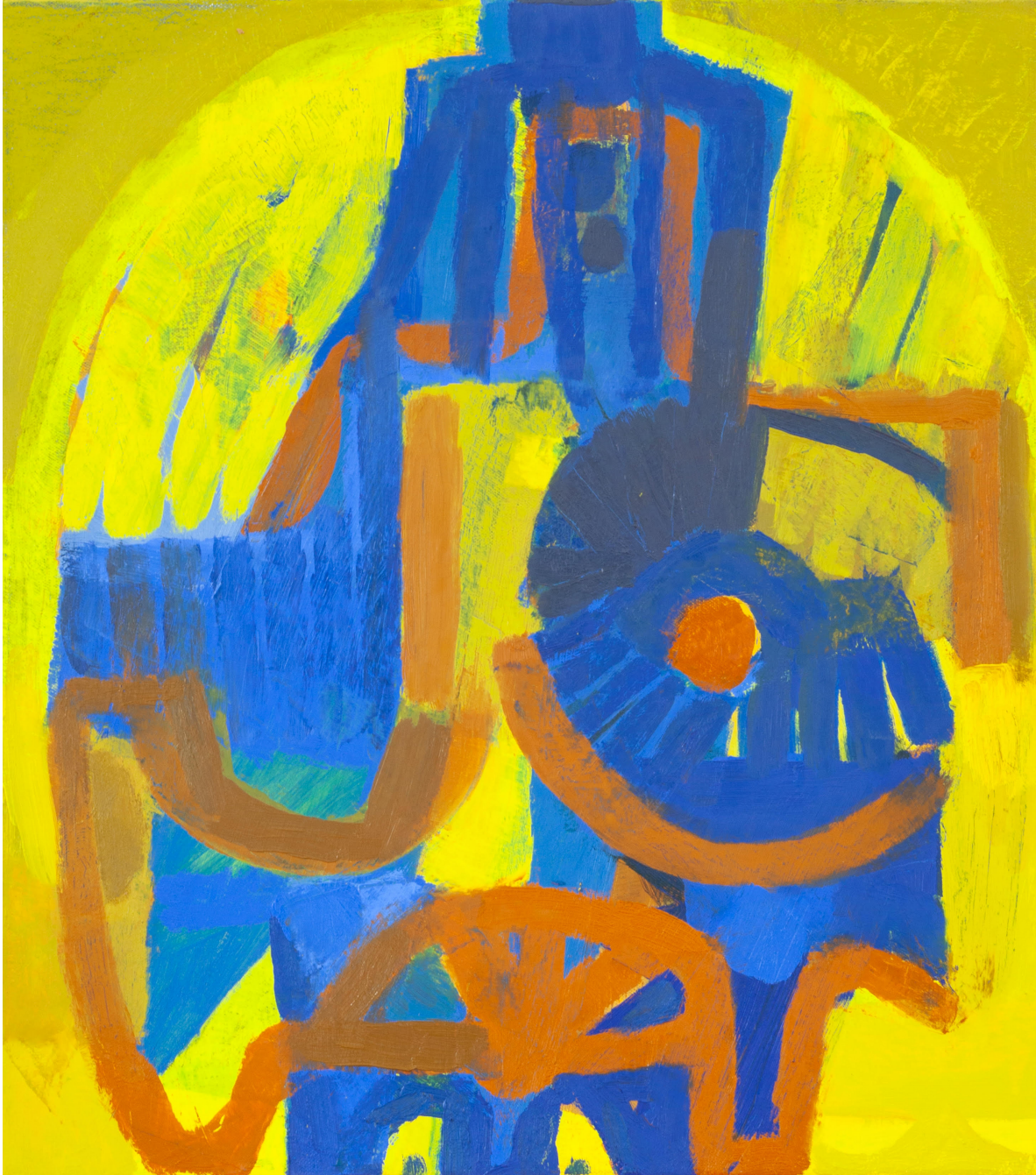


Image: Meghan Brady, "Honey" from Skirting the Line



**Prompt 5: Title your poem “Fragments From a Nature Cult (after Inka Essenhigh)”. Go outside for a walk or look out your window. Write from the perspective of a flower—what do you see?**



Image: Inka Essenhigh, “Fragments from a nature cult, 2087 CE” from Skirting the Line



