



NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS
Art Museum

Teacher Packet

Sculpture Garden

The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum would like for your class visit to be as enlightening and as effective as possible, and we are pleased to offer you our Teacher Packets to aid and prepare your class for their visit. This material is designed to be used both before and after your visit, and we hope it will maximize the impact of your class' experience here. We welcome any feedback or suggestions you may have on how to improve this teacher packet. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of your educational process. We look forward to your visit.

National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum
1801 South Indiana Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60616

312/326.0270 phone
312/326.9676 fax

www.nvvam.org

Lesson Plans and Activities

ACTIVITY 1

Consider John McManus' *POW Series*. What kinds of deaths are there? What might actual death mean to a prisoner of war specifically in contrast to other soldiers (relief? freedom...)?

ACTIVITY 2

John McManus' *Abandoned*: Who or what might have been abandoned? Examples to think about: refugees, Vietnam Veterans, humanity, ideals...

ACTIVITY 3

Locate *Honorable Discharge* by Scott Niestadt and *Jar of Mars* by Mike Helbing, which are exhibited together. Notice the use of the food imagery metaphor used in each piece. Why do you suppose both of these artists chose to communicate their messages in this way? Do you think the artists/soldiers feel they are meat, or does society seem to view those in the military that way? Think of what it is about meat that people could relate to people in the military specifically. Can you understand or even agree with this metaphor? Why or why not?

ACTIVITY 4

What might be "hard to swallow" in Randolph Harmes' *Hard to Swallow*? Who or what might this sculpture be about?

Works Cited

Harmes, Randolph. *Hard to Swallow*. Undated. National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, Chicago, IL.

Helbing, Michael. *Jar of Mars*. 2003. National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, Chicago, IL.

McManus, John. *Abandoned*. 1979. National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, Chicago, IL.

---. *POW Series*. 1989. National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, Chicago, IL.

Niestadt, Scott. *Honorable Discharge*. 1981. National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum, Chicago, IL.