

MEMORY AND TRIBUTE



Objective

- To practice writing skills and verbal expression.
- To encourage close looking and active engagement with a work of art displayed in this exhibition.
- To introduce students to different ways to explore the subject of memory, loss, and tribute.

Introduction

Look up! In the center of the gallery you will see a work of art created by artist Trinh Mai titled, *Quiet*. Using an old-fashioned typewriter, Trinh has also typed letters dedicated to the people portrayed in these portraits. Each portrait has been painted on a long piece of thin white fabric. In some cultures white sashes are worn as headbands at times of mourning or loss. This work of art is dedicated to the refugees, particularly children, who lost their lives and/or were kidnapped by pirates during their escape by sea.

Directions

Take a few moments to look closely at this art piece. To gain different perspectives of this work, try standing in different places in the gallery to examine this work from a different location. For example, try looking at this work of art from the left or right side, from the front or back of the gallery, or even standing directly underneath it. By the front door is a sample of one of the sashes that you can touch and examine up close.

- 1) After reading the artist's description of her artwork on the wall, what details stand out to you about this work of art? What could you see standing close up, and what could you see while standing further away?
- 2) What do you notice about the faces of the people shown in this work of art? How old does each person look? What expressions can you observe on each person's face?
- 3) After spending some time with this work of art, what feelings, or emotions do you think this artist was trying to communicate with us? What feelings or emotions did you feel when you explored this work of art?
- 4) How does this art piece help you think about the current refugee situation such as those fleeing Syria and other countries embattled in war?