

## Memory: Exploring the Theme

The process of artmaking encourages us to draw upon the many sense impressions that we collect from our environment: the delicate dew upon the morning grass, the rich depth of golden light that autumn brings, the quiet of the nighttime forest as the cold sets in. These sense impressions are collected throughout our lives and creatively reimagined as the stories that we hear shift and grow, gradually becoming imbued with a spirit that we allow to shape our lives. Works of art made with these sense impressions, with these *memories*, tell the stories that shape us, that inspire us, that we want to be remembered for.

Taking the time to slowly visit the rich landscape of our memories and expressing these memories anew changes the very nature of our relationship with our past, with our present, and with our future. By using our memories to create works of art, we create new memories. We re-envision the stories we tell ourselves about ourselves, and thus we are transformed. We re-envision the stories we tell ourselves about the world, and thus the world is transformed. Through these important works of art, we share the stories of our history and of our transformation, and we together shift and grow.

*What memories best tell the story of who you are?*

*What memories best tell a story that you wish to share?*

*Can you envision a memorable process of artmaking?*