

what  
will you  
create?

zeum

## Artists and Poets: Words as Visual Art

This month we are celebrating the inauguration of our 44<sup>th</sup> president. Sasha and Malia Obama will be moving into the Whitehouse. Rumor has it that the first thing the Obama girls did when they got to their new home was jump on the bed. Next, they will be adopting a new puppy.

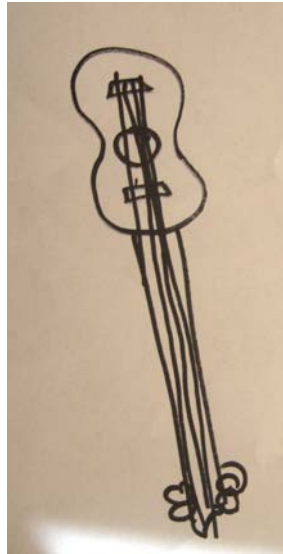
What would be the first thing you do if you moved into the Whitehouse? We want to hear about it! Here are some fun ways to get your ideas onto paper, and make beautiful art at the same time. You'll only need paper, a pen and some markers.

### Instructions

Step 1: Think about 10 words or phrases that describe your ideas. Be as creative as you like, the words don't have to be exact or literal, for example "music" says a lot, without telling too much. These 10 words will be the building block for your Poetic Art.



Step2: Draw a symbol for each word. The symbols don't have to look exactly like the words. For example the symbol for butterfly can be a series of squiggly lines. As long as the word is represented to you, and you'll remember it's meaning. You can also give the symbol weight and emotion by concentrating on your strokes. Thick, heavy, straight, short strokes have different feelings than long, light, curvy, thin lines. Different colors are a great way to evoke different feelings from your symbols.



Step3: Use these symbols to create a collage. Decorate a background piece of paper. Cut out and arrange your symbols however you'd like on the background. You can use scale/size to make some symbols stand out. You can layer symbols to combine ideas and help get your ideas across to the viewer. Does your Visual Art represent your ideas? Let's test it..



Step 4: Show your Art to a friend. While they are looking, ask them to write down words and phrases that come to mind. What do you see? What do you feel? Do you see any shapes that remind you of words?? Compare your original words with your friends list. Are they similar??



Step 5: Once you've revealed that this abstract piece of art is about moving into the Whitehouse, take notice of your friend's reaction, it will be priceless 😊

If you would like to share your answer to the question: "What would be the first thing you do if you moved into the Whitehouse?" Please email it to us: [stage@zeum.org](mailto:stage@zeum.org)

Make sure your subject is "The Whitehouse" Once emailed, please come to zeum and perform what you've written! We will post your words on the teleprompter in our music production lab. Now your ideas have created literature, Visual Art and Performance Art!!