

Poetry in the Main Galleries
Anastasia Samoylova: FloodZone

After viewing the photographs in the *Anastasia Samoylova: FloodZone* exhibition, find one photograph that you connect or associate with Octavio Paz's poem, *Wind, Water, Stone*.

Wind, Water, Stone by Octavio Paz

Translated by Eliot Weinberger
For Roger Caillois

Water hollows stone,
wind scatters water,
stone stops the wind.
Water, wind, stone.

Wind carves stone,
Stone's a cup of water,
Water escapes and is wind.
Stone, wind, water.

Wind sings in its whirling,
water murmurs going by,
unmoving stone keeps still.
Wind, water, stone.

Each is another and no other:
crossing and vanishing
through their empty names:
water, stone, wind.

Octavio Paz, "Wind, Water, Stone" from *The Collected Poems of Octavio Paz, 1957-1987*. Copyright © 1979 by Octavio Paz. Reprinted by permission of New Directions Publishing Corporation. Source: *The Collected Poems of Octavio Paz, 1957-1987* (New Directions Publishing Corporation, 1987)

Stand in front of the image you have chosen and silently read *Wind, Water, Stone* again.

Over

Think about ...

Describe to yourself how the photographer (maker) depicts wind in the image.

If the photographer does not depict wind in the image, what clues confirm that conclusion?

Describe to yourself how the photographer (maker) depicts water in the image.

What three words would you use to describe the water in your image?

Describe to yourself how the photographer (maker) depicts stone in the image.

Katherine Frazer of the Nature Conservancy in Rochester, New York asks us to consider these questions.

- How does nature persist in these images?
- How is it overwhelmed?
Is your reaction to grieve nature? To revel in it. To persist?
- In Samoylova's eyes, is Miami fast becoming the new Atlantis? And what about in our own eyes?
- Who is winning here—us or nature? And must we think of ourselves as being on opposite sides when we are part of nature?