As we stand at the threshold of this new Portal, I have provided an example of the Ekphrasis poem by the poet William Carlos Williams and the painting, *The Fall of Icarus* by Pieter Brueghel.


**Landscape with the Fall of Icarus**
William Carlos Williams

According to Brueghel
when Icarus fell
it was spring
a farmer was ploughing
his field
the whole pageantry
of the year was
awake tingling
with itself
sweating in the sun
that melted
the wings' wax
unsignificantly
off the coast
there was
a splash quite unnoticed
this was
Icarus drowning
Please note that Williams names the painter in the first line, and a reference to the title in the second. If you are writing a poem with a traditional ekphrasis form you would typically identify or name the painting in the first line of the poem. This is the only "rule" in writing an ekphrasis poem--the rest is left to creative freedom.

**Invite to Write**

The first theme of OFFERING is an intentional one that we have selected along with the following image. To make an offering is an ancient rite and as we pass through this new Portal together, we want to honor it by offering wit, enthusiasm, and creativity to the process and all of you. Please submit your poem inspired by this image of “offering” to poetry@aras.org no later than November 15th. Good luck to all of you!

"Untitled" Terracotta sculpture.
Pre-dynastic Egypt.