**VAST 2011 GALLERY SESSION**

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PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART

**Lune Poem – Information**

None

The Lune (‘LOON’) - French for moon. The Lune is a short poetic form invented & named by poet Robert Kelly in the 1960s. While working with Haiku, he noticed that English says things in fewer syllables than does Japanese; he experimented with different variations of a haiku-like form & determined that a 13 syllable form arranged in three lines consisting of a 5/3/5 pattern worked best. He named this form the Lune because the right-hand (or varying edge) formed the bowed shape of a crescent moon & also because the number 13 reminded him of the lunar year – which is 13 months. Here is an example of a Robert Kelly Lune from a series called “Knee Lunes”:

Thin sliver of the  
Crescent moon  
High up the real world

**Poet Jack Collom created a variant form when he remembered the 5/3/5 combination incorrectly as words instead of syllables. Thousands of children used the 5/3/5 word variant to create alternate Lunes.**

(Information from the handbook of Poetic forms) http://www.bigorb.com/orb/link/view.php?id=760&link\_id=1624