

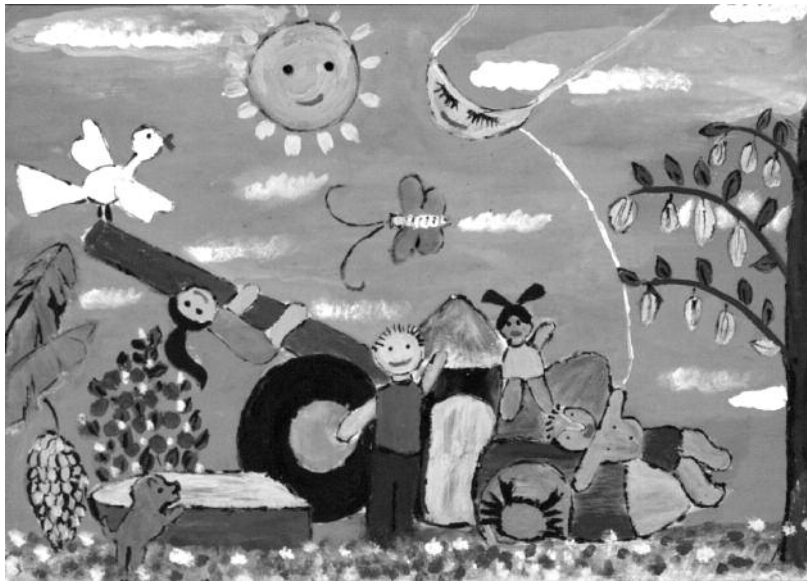
Speak Peace: American Voices Respond to Vietnamese Children's Paintings

Why Not?

MARCIA SKIDMORE'S SEVENTH GRADERS

Why not change a torpedo
into a loving dolphin?
Why not take barbed wire
and soften it, then knit a sweater?
I see a bullet flying through the air, and I
think,
why not have it be a graceful bird?
Why not take a tank
and shoot out bubbles?
Why not cover a helmet
with sparkles and wear it to the prom?
Why not use battleships

in a giant bubble bath?
Why not use a bazooka
as a high-powered bottle opener?
Why not take a gun
and load it with chocolate?
Why not disable a landmine
and make a Frisbee?
Why not take all the soldiers
and turn them into elves?
Instead of war, why not
peace?



Weapons No More Malicious, by Phung An Khai, age 11

Speak Peace features original poems written by American children, veterans, and established poets in response to Vietnamese children's paintings of peace and war collected over the last ten years by the War Remnants Museum in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. A project between Kent State's Wick Poetry Center and School of Art Galleries, and Soldier's Heart, a veteran's

return and healing organization, *Speak Peace* will tour nationally until September 2013. Visit *Speak Peace* online at www.speakpeace.net.

Marcia Skidmore's seventh-grade students attend Miller South School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Akron, Ohio.