On Felt Sens & Memories

A NOD TO MY INSPIRATION: Sondra Perl
A text from class that has stuck with me, and that helped me create this piece was from Sondra Perl's "Understanding Composing". For me, a lot of times when I write I know what I want to get across, but the words do not come. As I wrote these poems, I could not put a label on what these feelings and memories meant, but even just describing the moment helped me understand why I come back to these instances time and time again. Sondra Perl helped me understand that these descriptions count as "good" writing because they capture the sense that I am trying to embody.

The Best Service

The grass sings us hymns in the afternoon
A tithe with each cast
Clouds passing by are a blessing
Each fish on the line is a gift
Cormorants remind us to look up at the living mural
Man could never build a more beautiful church

Stick With Me, Please

The sun makes silver on the surface of the intercoastal
We avoid oyster beds peeping above the water
Against all the earth tones, stark red and blue from his PBR can
Shrimp jumping, lines flying overhead
The heat beats on the surface of the boat
Talking about nothing, while talking about everything
I try to memorize his movements and his stories

For Me, It Wasn't Just a Thursday

When I think of home, I am sitting on the cool brick of our porch
Dusk is in full effect, casting everything in blue
My parents rock in the two rickety chairs, with two glasses between them
Two best friends that raised me
The grill is rolling out smoke, my dad intermittently checks our supper
Carolina Beach Music is playing over the bull frogs
My parents tell stories with each new song
With these examples, they raised me well

In My Peace

This boat is an acceptable escape
People would whisper if I disappeared for an entire day doing nothing
But out on the boat people assume productivity in isolation
I can sit in silence and not be thought timid
The marsh and the sky speak enough to fill any silence
The land shrinks away from me, carrying my worries with it

Sondra Perl

"When writers pause, when they go back and repeat key words, what they seem to be doing is waiting, paying attention to what is still vague and unclear. They are looking to their felt experience, and waiting for an image, a word, or a phrase to emerge that captures the sense they embody." - "Understanding Composing"