

# Archibald MacLeich

a poem should be  
palpable and mute as a globed  
fruit: dumb as old medal lions to the  
thumb: silent as the sleeve worn stone of  
casement ledges where the moss has grown:  
a poem should be wordless as the flight of birds:  
a poem should be motionless in time as the moon  
climbs leaving: as the moon releases twig by twig  
the night entangled trees leaving: as the moon be  
hind the winter leaves: memory by memory the  
mind: a poem should be motionless in time as  
the moon climbs: a poem should be equal to:  
not true: for all the history of grief an empty  
doorway and a maple leaf: for love the  
leaning grasses and two lights above  
the sea: a poem should  
not mean: but be:



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archibald\\_MacLeish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archibald_MacLeish)