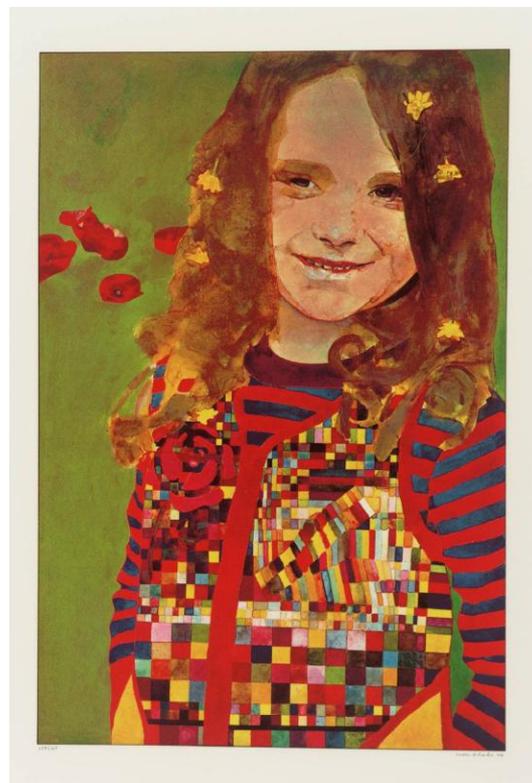


Engaging and Educating in Child Maltreatment

An Arts Enhancement of Maltreatment-Related
Clinical Skills at the McMaster Museum of Art

OMA Conference October 14, 2014

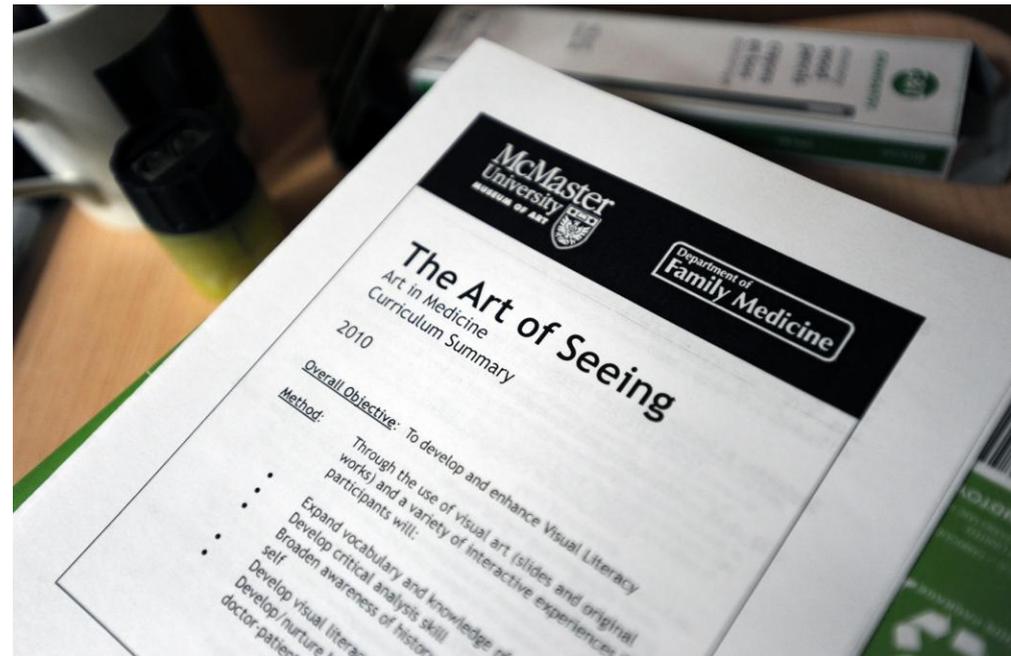


Community wellness & social services policy development



The Art of Seeing™

The Art of Seeing™ is an ongoing innovative visual literacy based skills enrichment experience for **McMaster University Family Medicine Residents** in partnership with the **McMaster Museum of Art**.



The McMaster Museum of Art: our place on campus

- McMaster University's mission is to inspire critical thinking, personal growth, and a passion for lifelong learning, ultimately serving the social, cultural, and economic needs of our community and our society.
- McMaster University seeks to achieve international distinction for creativity, innovation, and excellence.

As artists, art historians and educators, we are trained to look very closely at art, we're trained to find differences and similarities, history, context, culture, and influences.

Doctors do the same with patients.



Engaging and Educating in Child Maltreatment

- Visual literacy course for undergraduate Medical students.
- Skill-enhancement early in their education.
- Focus on the importance and duty of mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse.

Duty to report

- It is a professional duty to report suspected maltreatment of children.
- Low rates of reporting by healthcare professionals compared to police and educators.

Why are so few doctors reporting suspected child abuse?

Lack of training during medical school

Better understanding and recognition of maltreatment experiences.

Better mandatory reporting training.



Community impact and the social damage of child abuse



Robust risk factor for poor physical, mental and financial health.

Multiple points of contact for health professionals, mental health professionals and the social welfare system.

Engaging and Educating in Child Maltreatment: What is it?

- Research-based visual literacy course to improve observation, description, communication, empathy and critical thinking skills.
- To see and find deeper meaning beyond what is apparent and obvious.
- Not every child's situation is clear – physicians need to pay close attention to what's not immediately there.
- Art is a neutral subject matter and an excellent tool for interpretation, negotiation, and communication of information presented in the form of an image.

Research methods

- Pre and post-course testing
- Maltreatment content knowledge survey
- Empathy scale
- Course evaluations
- Track improvements in observational accuracy, descriptive skills, and empathy





Changes in medical education to include more object-based learning and partnerships with museums and art galleries.

Engaging and Educating in Child Maltreatment: The program



Three sessions combining art-based visual literacy learning followed by a clinical case study.



When the story just doesn't make sense...



Awareness of clinical encounters that suggest something is wrong.

Beginning with formal analysis: the elements and principles of art



Interpretation and evidence-based looking



- *What's your interpretation of the image you see?*
- *What specifically do you see that influences your interpretation?*
- *Remember to keep looking.*







S. Jekowicz
1945
BUCHENWALD
1945



Edvard Munch

G. Koller





“... a master lesson in the value of critical attention, patient investigation, and skepticism about immediate surface appearances.”

Dr. Jennifer Roberts
Harvard University

Outcomes

- Improved observation skills.
- Positive feedback on the relevancy of the course.
- “Weird dichotomy” between works of art and case study images of injured children.
- Bolstered problem-solving skills.
- Museum as safe environment for reflection and contemplation about such an important topic.

Interesting outcomes: self-care and recognizing bias

- In all our visual literacy courses, medical students and residents feel a renewed sense of well-being and self reflection after time spent at the Museum looking at art.
- Participants also recognize and acknowledge how their own bias influences what they see and how they interpret what they see in art.



We hope these positive outcomes and responses go a long way in convincing medical schools to provide more effective and longer training to their students.

Picturing Wellness: the exhibition 2016

Sharing our experiences and offering the our community a look at how and why our object-based visual literacy courses benefit medical education and professionalism.



Engaging and Educating in Child Maltreatment: Community wellness & social services policy development



Improved training for healthcare students and professionals in recognizing child abuse and neglect.

Increased reporting of suspected child abuse.

Reduction in abuse for healthy individuals and communities.

Resilience and self-care in doctors to be better professionals.

Thank you!

Nicole Knibb

Education Coordinator

McMaster Museum of Art

knibbn@mcmaster.ca

Dr. Christine Wekerle

Associate Professor, Pediatrics

McMaster University

chris.wekerle@gmail.com



Photography credits

Michael Lalich

Cole Garside

Richard Zazulak

Jennifer Petteplace

Ihor Holubizky

RoseAnne Prevec