

On Campus Communities

**McMaster Museum of Art
and the
McMaster University Department of
Family Medicine:**

The Art of Seeing

Why Visual Literacy for Residents?

- Expand knowledge and vocabulary of visual art
- Develop critical analysis skills
- Broaden awareness of history, culture, others and self
- Develop visual literacy
- Develop and nurture humanistic approach to the doctor-patient relationship
- Increase tolerance for ambiguity

2009: The Pitch







2010: The Faculty Session







The Pilot

8 residents.

8 weeks.

1 resident-curated exhibition.

Introduction to the MMA



Art educator Karen Scott Booth

Family Medicine professor

Dr. Joyce Zazulak

MMA educators Nicole Knibb and Teresa Gregorio



Residents toured the MMA, behind-the-scenes and all current exhibitions in order to become more comfortable being there.



**Four weeks were spent learning to look --
applying careful observation, first reactions,
building the story and the study of signs and
symbols.**



The Exhibition



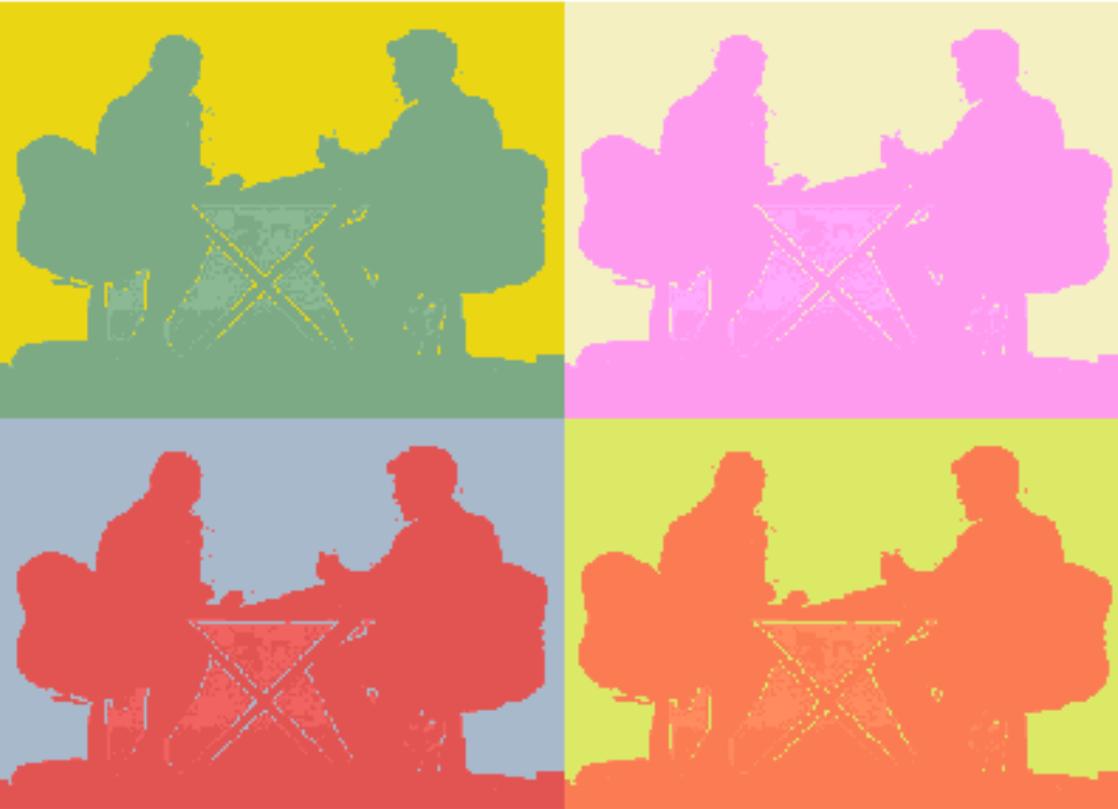
Landscape, Memory, Desire The Opening Reception







The Interviews



As part of research surrounding the success of *The Art of Seeing*, anonymous interviews were conducted to get residents' reactions to the course.

Interesting Outcomes

- Overall improvement in patient questioning
- Empathy and concern for how patients feel
- Increased tolerance for ambiguity
- Learn to avoid immediate judgment
- Recognize bias
- Multiple readings for same sets of data

Suggestions for Improvement

- **Less focus on art history**
- **Fewer works of art**
- **more actual works of art and fewer digital images**
- **No further exhibition curating**
- **More clinical connection**
- **A more condensed course**



“An art course like *The Art of Seeing* heightens our humanity, makes us more sensitive to, and understand the human situation more clearly, and opens our values to bring forth a steady flow of empathy and compassion, which naturally runs in our veins.

Art mirrors life.”

Press and Infamy

- Nation-wide press: CBC Television and Radio, Maclean's, Global TV, Hamilton Spectator, Globe and Mail, etc
- Journal article in *Museums and Social Issues*
- Ongoing tours from various faculties on campus for mini versions of *The Art of Seeing* (School of Nursing, Medical Illustration and Biomedical Graphics, and Behavioural Sciences to name a few)
- University of Ottawa Department of Pathology