The International Journal of Whole Person Care

WHOLE PERSON CARE McGill

The early encounter: Shallow looking and the manifest presence in medical education

Ezra Schwartz

Volume 11, Number 1S, Supplement, 2024

Congress 2023

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1110258ar DOI: https://doi.org/10.26443/ijwpc.v11i1.418

See table of contents

Publisher(s)

McGill University Library

ISSN

2291-918X (digital)

Explore this journal

Cite this document

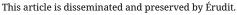
Schwartz, E. (2024). The early encounter: Shallow looking and the manifest presence in medical education. *The International Journal of Whole Person Care*, 11(1S), s51–s52. https://doi.org/10.26443/ijwpc.v11i1.418

© Ezra Schwartz, 2024



This document is protected by copyright law. Use of the services of Érudit (including reproduction) is subject to its terms and conditions, which can be viewed online.

https://apropos.erudit.org/en/users/policy-on-use/



Érudit is a non-profit inter-university consortium of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Its mission is to promote and disseminate research.

https://www.erudit.org/en/



WHOLE PERSON CARE

VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 1S • 2024 • S51-S52

POSTER

THE EARLY ENCOUNTER: SHALLOW LOOKING AND THE MANIFEST PRESENCE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION

Ezra Schwartz

Harvard Medical School, Boston, Massachusetts, USA ezraschwartz@hms.harvard.edu

Keywords: Early medical encounter, Visual art

f the pressure of patient flow limits a doctor's visit to fifteen minutes, the importance of the early encounter is increasing. My proposal is dedicated to the first moment of the intersubjective encounter (with art or otherwise), that defined by the unconscious assessment a priori to conscious interpretation, its authority in the clinical encounter, and how to address this moment in medical education.

The dynamics between observer and artwork occur in two stages. First, the observer's senses are attacked, indeed overwhelmed, by the work. Our adaptive unconscious uses reflexive techniques (e.g., thin-slicing) to triage and resolve this information to a more manageable load. Because pattern collection, discovery, and comparison are under unconscious control, the question arises concerning accountability for snap judgments. By studying the patterns that thin-slicing utilizes, and our immediate reaction given these patterns, the conscious self can predict—or at least become more accountable—for these judgments.

Second, uncomfortable as the victim of a sensory attack, the observer dominates the artwork through the act of interpretation. The observer's intellect and desire to interpret (both under conscious control) dissolve the uncertainty of the encounter by categorizing it into a comfortable system. Once attuned to this conscious

The early encounter: shallow looking and the manifest presence in medical education Ezra Schwartz

power reversal, we can restrain the unconscious desire prompting the reversal and maintain space in the intersubjective encounter.

As visual art is a strong vehicle to discuss the theory behind the dynamics of the early encounter, it is also the appropriate method by which to coach medical students through the early medical encounter.