

Selected student comments on the UMMA tour:

I loved touring the African Art exhibit. The tour leader was excellent and proposed numerous thought-provoking questions that had direct connections to medicine/death/sickness/community.

As a physician, we must constantly be looking beyond facades to better understand the backgrounds and social contexts of patients to optimally advise and treat. The power of observation is crucial since it is our job as physicians to glean relevant details from patients and pick up on all possible diagnostic clues.

Art is such a powerful illustration of suffering and illness. It allows for unique reflection on the role of medicine as it relates to alleviating or causing such pain.

Art helps open your eyes to how the world is perceived in different ways by different people and different cultures. The process of viewing the world throughout another perspective is helpful in and of itself to broaden one's own horizons and sometimes reveal one's own biases. In addition, it may provide an

[Art offers an] indirect window into a patient's worldview and thereby enhances the therapeutic relationship.

It reminds us to keep a sharp eye for less-obvious details, and question our assumptions.

It helps one to understand human disease, suffering, and healing throughout time and across different cultural boundaries. This is important in understanding what patients of different backgrounds are going through.

It helped me to see how some cultures deal with social strife and explain disease,

Spending time thinking about how other cultures live, and what their values are has an immeasurable benefit. It reminds us that not everyone has the same values and lifestyle that we do, which can undoubtedly help us understand our patients better.