

## The Medical Arts 16-17: Frankel Foundation for Art Collection Tour Participant Reflections

On Monday, April 3, 2017, Medical Arts Program donors Maxine and Stuart Frankel hosted a gallery tour and a dinner for participants of the Medical Arts Program at their private art collection in Troy, MI. The Frankels welcomed 29 participants into their art collection--consisting primarily of house officers, faculty, and medical students, as well as a few MFA students.

There were five dinner tables with an equal amount of faculty, medical students, house officers and MFA students at each table. The evening began with dinner, in which participants got acquainted with one another at their respective tables. Maxine segued into the gallery tour by providing the group with some background about the collection.

Several participants voiced that the Frankels' presence was the most valuable part of the evening. Many of them said Maxine give the Maxine's the emotional Frankels have artists they've been years".



Many participants perceive thoughtful between the art their medical world. connections drew missions as participant made connection to their medical world:

they enjoyed having tour, and "hearing commentary about connections the forged with the supporting over the

were also able to connections collection tour and Several of these upon their individual physicians. One the following

"So many of the art pieces were representations of artists struggles with medical issues, and it once again reminded me of how my future career as a doctor will be impactful on people from all walks of life. It also was a touching insight into how people cope with devastating medical issues and loss. From seeing the clay self-portrait sculpture of the artist on chemo with thrush on his tongue, to the prolific works of the artist with the multiply-fired clay bowls prior to his death from lung cancer - it was inspirational."

Another participant made a similar connection, that "illness and disease can be the impetus to change one's life, as we saw through the artists who began their work or changed it based on their experiences with illness or disease. We as physicians must always keep in mind that even if we see these realities everyday, these are still potentially extremely life-changing experiences for our patients."

Of the participants we surveyed, 80% said that this Medical Arts event would make them a better physician. Many of the students and faculty referred to this event as “one of the best in the program”, as well as a highlight during their time participating in the program.

The Medical Arts Program is an initiative of Michigan Medicine at the University of Michigan.

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