Art in Medicine: Structured Observation of Artworks with Application to Patient Care
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Methods
The program began in January 2012 and was opened to medical students in years 1-3 with a limit of 25 students participating at any one time. Sessions were held periodically throughout the year on a Wednesday evening during a time the Art Museum was open later with free admission. All sessions were facilitated by an art educator from the art museum as well as UA COM-P faculty. Each session lasted 1.5 hours and included pairing artwork with observation exercises in art concepts (color, light, form, etc.) and didactics to link artistic concepts with history-taking and physical exam skills. Students were given take-home follow up material to continue self-directed learning regarding the concepts discussed. Each session had a unique goal and covered a specific topic. Topics included questioning, descriptive language, conveying content, exploring bias, as well as many others.

Results
To date, 11 sessions have been held (3-4 per year). Not all students attended every session, but attended when schedules allowed. Attendance fared better when the activity was scheduled on non-exam weeks. As this is an evening program, it was challenging to motivate students to attend sessions after hours. However, the students that did attend felt that the program provided a great opportunity to see something different, enhanced their clinical skills of observation, and was enriching.

Discussion and Conclusions
The program has been successful in providing a different context for students to enhance their observation skills and ultimately provide students with opportunities to raise awareness and self-reflect on their care of patients. This program expands upon similar work initiated at medical schools/museums in other cities, but has broadened its impact beyond quantitatively documented improvement in observation skills. The program is realizing benefits across a range of clinical skills and mindsets. Our challenge now is to increase participation and offer additional avenues to generate student-interest in art-in-medicine.

Future Plans
- Art Journaling
- Zen tangle workshops
- Community outreach with art therapy
- Creation of art works by students based on patient encounters

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