

Reflection of Dermatology and Venereology in Arts and Skin as a Tool for Expression Over Time

The echo of medicine and illness in arts has been studied over centuries. On the other hand, dermatology and venereology is a medical field where very much is seen just by looking at the patient and big part of the diagnostics up to now is visual. This has led to the portrayal of skin and sexually transmitted diseases in paintings and other forms of art, syphilis being the most commonly illustrated sexually transmitted disease throughout art history. Apart from the wide spectrum of syphilis symptoms, erysipelas, leprosy, various nevi, genetic dermatoses, alopecia and various forms of acne and rosacea have been displayed.

Artworks have also been turned into a great tool for education — as example serving the Yale Center of British Art alongside Faculty of Yale, offering the same opportunity to other schools, who teach from original works of art. Enhancing Observation Skills is a program for medical students used to enhance their observation and communication skills through studying artworks.

From ancient history up to today skin itself has been used as a canvas for individuals' personal artistic vision — ancient body paints, tattoos, piercings, contemporary body paintings, as well as patients with such conditions as acne, psoriasis, vitiligo, eczema, urticaria recently embracing their skin condition with makeup on social media.

Last but not least — with medicine and particularly dermatology evolving, esthetic dermatology has become a large player where the approach to patients wishes requires lots of practical skills and an artistic touch, and possibly the results of it in close future will be seen in art pieces.

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