

2023 ACAAM Annual Meeting

April 11-12, 2023 | The Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, MD



Tuesday, April 11, 4:30 – 6 pm

Using Visual Art to Explore the Narratives of Minoritized Women Who Use Substances

It is widely understood that people who use substances face a significant amount of social stigma, inequity, and discrimination. Be it in accessing housing, obtaining work, dealing with the justice system, or interacting with medical institutions, the realities of stigma becomes even more compounded when the individual using substances also belongs to one or more minoritized identity groups. Such intersectionality can lead to further marginalization and difficulty accessing resources. Thus, providing appropriate addiction care in an equitable fashion requires significant engagement with the forces that enact stigma and discrimination upon all people using substances and in particular those from groups that have been systematically disenfranchised. One approach to decreasing stigmatizing behavior in the healthcare system has been the incorporation of arts and humanities into educational curricula in order to address explicit/implicit biases as well as build skills in culturally/structurally competent care. Under this umbrella, Visual Thinking Strategies is a system of critical thinking and observation that allow learners to engage with art and each other either in small groups on campus or at museums or galleries. These strategies have been used by different medical schools and residencies to build skills of clinical observation, empathy, team building/communication, learner wellness, and cultural sensitivity. There is no evidence, however, that visual art instruction has been significantly incorporated into provider education surrounding substance use disorders and their associated stigma. To this end, this session seeks to provide academic addiction medicine educators with a toolkit of visual art activities that can be mobilized in the education of trainees and students in the care of patients with substance use disorders. Using 3 visual art exercises, participants will gain skills in observation, reflection, introspection, and communication with regard to minoritized women who use substances.

Upon completion of this session, participants should be able to:

- 1) describe visual arts curricula in medical education, including visual thinking strategies;
- 2) recognize how art facilitates skills of observation, reflection, and introspection; and
- 3) practice a structured art viewing exercise to explore bias and stigma with a focus on minoritized women who use substances.

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Intended Audience: Trainees, Junior Faculty, Senior Faculty, Program Administrators