



***Visual and Medical Arts Meet at the Lowe During  
University of Miami's Patient Safety Week***

*310 medical, nursing, and DPT students participate in the Lowe's  
Fine Art of Health Care program.*

Miami, FL, June 21, 2017 – Medical, nursing and doctorate of physical therapy (DPT) graduate students gathered at the Lowe Art Museum this week to fine-tune their critical skills of observation and communication – while looking at art. This tailored Fine Art of Health Care program is part of University of Miami's annual Patient Safety Week that began on Monday. The Fine Art of Health Care was developed at the Lowe and is based on Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS) that teach participants to enhance their sensitivity, empathy, communication, and teamwork with the aim to improve patient outcomes. This is the fourth year that the students visit the Lowe for these inter-professional workshops.

“Participants are always surprised at what they discover beyond their initial impressions of what they see,” comments Hope Torrents, the Lowe's director of the Fine Art of Health Care program. “Additionally, they learn to communicate about their observations with sensitivity and in collaboration with their peers, which can only benefit their patients.” Previous participants in the Lowe's Fine Art of Health Care workshops have recognized the similarities between exploring art and examining patients to make a diagnosis. “The tendency is to have biases in medicine and taking the time to look at works of art and listen to multiple ideas made me realize how important it is to slow down and step back,” said one former participant.

Students will participate in small groups, observe and communicate about pieces of art in the museum's galleries, and focus on the connections between looking at art and looking at a patient. Many programs around the country incorporate visual art into medical education; the Lowe Art Museum's program is unique in its interdisciplinary

approach, bringing together students from different medical disciplines who often need to work together. Hierarchy doesn't exist when students walk into the museum. The playing field is leveled, and all interpretations are welcomed and perspectives taken into consideration. Ambiguity in art is very similar to uncertainty of a patient's illness. Furthermore, collaboration/teamwork when decoding a work of art parallels that of a medical team working with patient cases.

Recognized as a highly effective strategy to enrich the skills that are fundamental to so many industries – from law enforcement to air traffic controllers to human resources – in an age where good communication is compromised by social media and stimulation overload, VTS and the Lowe's program are a welcome invitation to be present and pay attention, so that ultimately patients and consumers of numerous services are better served.

### About Lowe Art Museum

The Lowe Art Museum ([www.miami.edu/lowe](http://www.miami.edu/lowe)) is located on the campus of the University of Miami at 1301 Stanford Drive, Coral Gables, Florida. With a permanent collection of 19,000 objects spanning 5,000 years of world culture, the Lowe is committed to serving as a vital resource for education and enrichment through art. Its dynamic permanent and temporary exhibitions establish the Lowe as a keeper of memories, a showcase for masterworks, an igniter of awe and wonder, and a bridge between yesterday and today.

Museum gallery hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. The Museum is closed on Mondays and University holidays. General Admission (not including programs) is \$12.50, \$8 for senior citizens and non-UM students, and free for Lowe members, UM students, faculty and staff, and children under 12. Admission is free on Donation Day, the first Tuesday of every month. For more information, call 305-284-3535, follow us on Twitter at [@loweartmuseum](https://twitter.com/loweartmuseum), follow us on [Facebook.com/loweartmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/loweartmuseum), or visit [lowemuseum.org](http://lowemuseum.org).



Graduate healthcare students from the University of Miami practice Visual Thinking Strategies in the Lowe's Fine Art of Health Care workshops during UM's Patient Safety Week.