



the art of
LEARNING MEDICINE

an exhibit of etchings and drawings

by May H. Lesser

National Library of Medicine

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THE ART OF LEARNING MEDICINE

In this exhibit physicians have a unique opportunity to recapture the almost forgotten memories of that first day in the anatomy lab, their awkwardness at the bedside when first taking a history, the excitement of their first delivery on the obstetrical service. Laymen, too, may share in these experiences, as Mrs. Lesser has applied her artistic talent to a wide variety of medical school scenes in a most sensitive yet authentic manner. As resident artist at the UCLA Medical School with the class of 1971, she attended lectures, laboratories, and clinics with copper plate or drawing materials in hand. She has accompanied the class through the freshman and sophomore years, and examples of this period are on display.

May Lesser sets the mood in the following statement. "Working alongside them over the past two years, I have evolved as they have. I am more at ease with the material, can look at it more objectively and assimilate it better into art. Consequently the work has grown from still to active, from few colors to many, and from isolated students to the large cohesive group. Perhaps more understanding of the students has led to greater fluidity in the work, while greater involvement with clinical medicine and its human problems (which are more within the scope of the on-looker) has added depth. The graphic work parallels the movement from the cadaver to the live patient, and the student's silent hours over the dead body to his verbal interchange with the live human being. As they came to understand the art of their medicine, I also became aware of the universal truth all around in the hospital setting. Beauty is inherent in the human cycle: birth, death, and human warmth and caring. 'Mercy comes in the form of human hands.' "



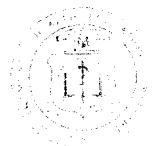
BIOGRAPHY:

May H. Lesser, the daughter, sister, and wife of physicians, is a graduate of the H. Sophie Newcomb College, Tulane University, with honors in drawing. She received a master's degree in painting from the University of Alabama and did graduate work at UCLA, where she also taught design. Her work has been exhibited at the UCLA Medical Center, Tulane University, University of Miami, Seattle Museum of Art, California State College at Long Beach, the Detroit Institute of Art, Smithsonian Institution, and a number of United States Embassies abroad.

Her etchings and drawings are in the permanent collections of the Weatherspoon Gallery, University of North Carolina; Oklahoma Art Center; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Grunwald Graphic Art Foundation, UCLA; and the National Library of Medicine. Two of her color etchings have recently appeared on the cover of the Journal of the American Medical Association.



1. Sagittal Series, 24x18, color etching and drypoint
2. Self Examination, 18x25, ink drawing
3. The Surgeons, 24x18, color etching and drypoint
4. The First Probe, 20x24, ink drawing
5. The Laboratory, 24x36, color etching and drypoint
6. Pediatric Examination, 18x25, color etching and pastel
7. The Case History, 18x25, ink drawing
8. The Charity Wait, 18x24, etching
9. The Contained: REM Sleep, 24x18, color etching
10. Psychiatric Evaluation, 18x24, color etching
11. Visual Perception, 18x24, color etching
12. Exact Measure, 6x9, drypoint
13. Injecting the Dye, 9x12, color etching
14. Studying the X-rays, 9x12, color etching
15. Boning Up, 8x9, drypoint
16. The Operation, 12x18, color etching
17. Supervision, 9x12, etching and drypoint
18. Observing Surgery, 18x25, ink drawing
19. In the O.R., 18x25, ink drawing
20. Professor's Case Presentation, 18x23, ink and pastel drawing
21. Psychiatric Interview, 18x25, ink drawing
22. Slide Lecture, 18x24, color etching
23. Organ Recital, 16x17, color etching
24. Gross Specimen, 16x18, color etching
25. Quiz Session, 16x17, color etching
26. Bio-math, 18x25, pastel
27. Pharmacology Lab, 25x18, color etching
28. MMI, 18x16, color etching and pastel
29. Bio-Chem Lab, 18x18, color etching
30. Tracheotomy, 13x16, etching
31. Removal of Skull Bones, 12x8, color etching and drypoint
32. Centrifuge, 9x6, drypoint
33. The Womb, 16x18, color etching and drypoint
34. Skin Clinic, 18x20, pastel
35. The Baby is Delivered (Caesarian Section), 16x17, color etching
36. Blood Clot, 24x18, color etching
37. A Quiet Study, 12x9, color etching
38. Final Exam, 27x30, color etching
39. Dr. Grant of Grant's Atlas of Anatomy, 16x18, drypoint
40. Fetus, 18x18, color etching
41. Ventricles, 19x26, ink drawing
42. The Baby is Born, 23x30, color etching and pastel
43. Gynecologist, 24x18, color etching and drypoint
44. Bad News, 27x30, color etching and pastel
45. Student Assistant, 18x24, ink drawing
46. Gastric Fluids, 17x21, ink drawing



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