Thursday, August 26, 2021
Location: Zoom - Please RSVP for link
4:30pm - 6:00pm

From Looking to Seeing: Perception and the Arts
The Self Depicted: Masters of Self-Portraiture, from Rembrandt and Durer to van Gogh and Picasso

Vincent de Luise, MD

Why does an artist choose paint themselves? What aspects of personality and psychology is an artist trying to capture by portraying their own visage? What does self-portraiture tell us about the artists themselves? How do artists paint the hand they use to paint when they are in the act of painting?

Why did two of the greatest artists in the western Canon - Durer and Rembrandt - paint themselves so frequently? How was this identity formation framed by the societies in which they lived.

In this conversation, we will look at how Albrecht Dürer invented the psychological self-portrait through remarkable drawn and painted self-portraits, and Rembrandt van Rijn’s evolution and relentless lifelong journey to autobiography in art, to understand himself through self-portraiture.

We will then survey self-portraiture over the centuries, including masterworks by Michelangelo, Leonardo, Caravaggio, Titian, Artemisia Gentileschi, Velazquez, Goya, Manet, van Gogh, Picasso, Frida Kahlo and Chuck Close.

Vincent de Luise MD is an assistant professor of ophthalmology at Yale University School of Medicine, a distinguished visiting scholar at Stony Brook University School of Medicine, and on the adjunct faculty of Weill Cornell Medical College where he serves on the humanities and medicine committee and is program annotator for the Weill Cornell Music and Medicine Orchestra. He is a 2019 visiting professor at La Sapienza University School of Medicine in Rome, Italy in the masters program in psychoneurobiology.

Dr. de Luise is also the cultural ambassador of the Waterbury Symphony Orchestra and the president of the Connecticut Summer Opera Foundation.

Dr. de Luise is a phi beta kappa graduate of Princeton University, the Weill Cornell Medical College, and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of the University of Miami. He has done fellowships at Harvard University in medical humanities and at the Proctor Foundation of the University of California San Francisco in corneal surgery and ocular immunology.

During his medical training, Dr. de Luise studied clarinet with the principal clarinetists of the NYC Ballet, the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, and the Florida Philharmonic. Dr. de Luise organized and performed at the Connecticut Mozart Festival, and at Carnegie Recital Hall with the Talcott String Quartet. He was a co-founder of the annual classical music concert at the American Academy of Ophthalmology, and writes frequently about music, perception and the arts.

Please RSVP here or to bioethics@stonybrookmedicine.edu