

Representation of Gilles de la Tourette syndrome in visual art

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Background

Gilles de la Tourette syndrome (GTS) has inspired both visual artists, film, and theatre directors as well as novelists. Art is frequently used as an avenue to talk about disease, but also as a possibility to obtain cathartic effect. The purpose of our work was to evaluate the examples of visual art serving as representation of the disease and an avenue to overcome the boundaries of their illness.

Methods

We conducted a narrative review of the information about visual artists whose work constitute representation of the illness experience in GTS.

Disordered moments, Eli Smith



Spectrum of Tourette, Kevin Gavaghan



Self-portrait, Patrick Lera



Tourette syndrome, John Fields



Remedial sketches, Lewis Rossingol



From the thematic perspective

- art as a **cathartic** mean to present their experience with the disease
- a human figure entrapped in a **closed space**, which represents the relationship between the patient and disease
- **the body in motion/the images of disfigured bodies** representing tics
- art as a direct **therapeutic** mean to control tics

From the formal perspective

expressionist

abstract art

surrealism

collage

comics

watercolor

combination of diverse techniques