

Episode: *Author Interview: "Repair and Transformation"*

Guest: Delaina Doshi, MFA

Host: Tim Hoff

Transcript: Cheryl Green

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[bright theme music]

[00:00:03] TIM HOFF: Welcome to another episode of the Author Interview series from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*. I'm your host, Tim Hoff. This series provides an alternative way to access the interesting and important work being done by Journal contributors each month. Joining me on this episode is Delaina Doshi, a Chicago-based interdisciplinary artist who reimagines textiles through a fusion of tesserae, assemblage, and archival techniques. She's here to discuss her piece, co-created with Dr Neha Sheng, *Mending*, in the June 2025 issue of the Journal, [Embodiment in Art Practice](#). Delaina, thank you so much for being here.

DELAINA DOSHI: Thanks for having me. [music fades]

[00:00:43] HOFF: Can you briefly visually describe your piece and tell our listeners what they should be looking at closely in your work?

DOSHI: Yeah. So, in the piece that I created, based on a conversation with Dr Sheng, we were talking a lot about the similarities between art and surgery, specifically in the art that I make. So in the piece that I created for the Journal is broken decorative plates collected from all over the Midwest that all feature depictions of people. So, in the broken pieces that I used to sew together, all of them are people with different faces or parts of their bodies then can combine to make one new sculpture or art piece.

[00:01:33] HOFF: So, what's a key point that you're trying to investigate in your artwork about embodiment and ethics in your own creative processes?

DOSHI: So, in my conversation with Dr Sheng, she is a family member, and we were talking a lot about the correlation between art and medicine, specifically art and surgery. The two of us are doing very similar things with our hands, but on very different mediums. So, in Dr Sheng's case, she is mending people together and fixing. She does a lot of, her specialty is vascular surgery. And so, she is mending veins all over the body in totally different ways, sometimes using pieces from another part of the patient's body to correct the problem that they're experiencing. And what I'm doing is taking something that was once whole and placing it together, using stitching techniques as well, though my surface is totally different, and there's not any sort of true surgical process. But we're using pieces to create something totally new. Though our work is very different, it's also similar in the way that we are using our hands. And we've talked a lot about how she was trained in medical school to stitch, and then my background is in fiber and textiles. So we have this similar training, but we use it in very different ways.

[00:03:12] HOFF: And finally, what do you think might be particularly important for health professions students and trainees to consider about your work.

DOSHI: I hope that they're able to consider the connection between art and science. I think many times, they're thought of to be very separate, but I see a lot of the similarities. Someone in the medical field or in the medical profession would have a different palette than an artist, per se, but their intellect, their skills, the tools that they're using specifically in surgery are very similar to what an artist uses, and the intuition required to make the decision that's going to best care for the individual is also similar to that artist intuition. [theme music returns]

[00:04:02] HOFF: Delaina, thank you so much for your time on the podcast today, and thanks to you and your co-author for your contribution to the Journal this month.

DOSHI: Thank you for having me.

HOFF: To read the full article, as well as the rest of this month's issue for free, visit our site, journalofethics.org. We'll be back soon with more *Ethics Talk* from the *American Medical Association Journal of Ethics*.