

Julia O’Gara

I am a combined degree student earning a BFA and a BS in biology. As someone pursuing a career in medicine, I try to simplify my studies, and thus my life, by looking at where these disciplines of science and visual arts talk to one another.

The work I’ve made

One of my primary mediums is books. As someone who takes a rather catholic view of what a book can be, it’s a great way to play between mediums and set up this dialogue of information, technique, and approach that I am trying to make.

The Fistula

This book is based on the writing and legacy of J Marion Sims, and the subsequent spiral of discussion his work has created into this contemporary moment. It is also about the three enslaved women who were his primary experimental subjects—Lucy, Betsey, and Anarcha—as well as the white women he also treated.

Astragalii

Fortune-telling is a tool which humans have used for millennia to try to at least pretend to control that which cannot be predicted or controlled—illness and death. This book takes the form of knucklebones, human talus bones, which have been used across ancient cultures for this purpose (and later as dice and jacks).

Foreign Body

The human body is a beautifully complex and incredible sight, and a surgeon will see it in an incredible intimate way which the patient probably will not. The counter to this almost sacred experience is what brings someone under the knife—sometimes it’s just the product of self-inflicted dumb curiosity.

Lung and Liver

The connections between different organs, and bodily systems, can be unexpected and strangely close. The lungs and liver talk to one another constantly to stretch, secrete, absorb, and process various functions of the body.

Stages of Wound Healing

This book closely investigates the carefully choreographed sequence of events which begins with an assault on the body and finishes as the recursive reworking of scar tissue.

The research

Susan Reynolds Whyte, Michael Whyte, and David Kyaddondo, "Technologies of inquiry: HIV tests and divination," *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 8, no. 1-2 (Spring/Autumn 2018): 97-108.

<https://doi-org.ezproxy.library.tufts.edu/10.1086/698359>

"Chinese Oracle Bones." University of Cambridge Digital Library.

<http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-CUL-00001-00155/3>

<https://yourdiyfamily.com/2017/05/leather-drawstring-pouch-diy/>

<https://crafts.tutsplus.com/articles/build-a-custom-made-clamshell-box-for-your-book--craft-11754> (instructions not useful; images were)



An Etruscan bronze model of a sheep liver annotated for divination from entrails

<https://www.tinkercad.com/things/jzVGCER28a5-astragalus-i> (various human foot bone models already exist on the Internet for free)

<http://www.booktryst.com/2011/04/anatomy-gets-animated-in-rare-flap.html>

Cologne, Kyle G, and Glenn T Ault. "Rectal foreign bodies: what is the current standard?." *Clinics in colon and rectal surgery* vol. 25,4 (2012): 214-8.

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Domonoske, Camila. 17 April 2018.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2018/04/17/603163394/-father-of-gynecology-who-experimented-on-slaves-no-longer-on-pedestal-in-nyc>

Ojanuga, D. "The medical ethics of the 'father of gynaecology', Dr J Marion Sims." *Journal of medical ethics* vol. 19,1 (1993): 28-31.

Wall, L L. "The medical ethics of Dr J Marion Sims: a fresh look at the historical record." *Journal of medical ethics* vol. 32,6 (2006): 346-50. doi:10.1136/jme.2005.012559

PBS.org c. 2003

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/pill-black-genocide/>

Wailoo K. Historical Aspects of Race and Medicine: The Case of J. Marion Sims. *JAMA*. 2018;320(15):1529–1530. doi:10.1001/jama.2018.11944

<https://www.rcsb.org/structure/3CWM>

IL-6 and IL-10 (cytokines mediating inflammation)

