

## Library Connect Podcast: Carlos Machado Interview

*This is a transcript of a Library Connect podcast recorded in May 2008.*

MS. CHRYSANNE LOWE: I'm here with Dr. Carlos Machado, Medical Illustrator for Elsevier, and we are at the Medical Library Association luncheon in Chicago, and Dr. Machado is about to give a talk to 200 medical librarians, to tell them about medical illustration, and I just wanted to ask you a few questions. We hear so much about physicians and art. Is there a special connection between medicine and art, do you feel?

DR. CARLOS MACHADO: Oh, yeah. I think so. It's like, well, and how can I say that or how can I explain this connection? All right. So this is the way I see it is, first of all, you have to be sensible to be a physician, and that is, I want to say, a valuable ingredient for both, for the artist, and for the physician, first of all is the sensitivity.

And the second one, this does relate - - to be sensible. It is how to listen as an illustrator. You have to know to whom you are addressing your art, and how you relate it to that public, and the same happens to the physician. You have to know how you relate to your patient and so forth. And I think that there are a strong relation between both.

MS. LOWE: Now, I know you're going to talk about this to your audience, but can you briefly tell me how you got interested, both in medicine and in art?

DR. MACHADO: Well, I don't know how to explain that. Some say that it's a -- phenomenon and when they think, in part, it's also genetic phenomenon. But I started painting very early, I mean, drawing very early. According to my parents I start when I was two and a half years old, and I could draw something, they put, how do you say, they could understand, you know?

They could identify, like it was a figure of a human being and so forth, or an animal. They could see, oh, that's a dog, or that's a man or a woman. And so, I started very early. And also, very early, I started-- well, in those days, I liked science. I was very

curious, and I liked to read. I started reading very early.

And when I turned four, I was able to read books and so forth. And so, I was flipping pages, see illustration of the books and the art. And because, actually, because of the illustrations, I started painting and drawing more and more, like I wanted to be a doctor, not an artist, professionally speaking, but I wanted to learn as much as I could about how to paint and how to draw.

MS. LOWE: Well, it's wonderful because you've become both.

DR. MACHADO: Oh, yeah. Yeah.

MS. LOWE: You fulfilled both wishes. Well, one of the wonderful things about art is art truly is a legacy. It's something that you leave behind, and I wonder if you have any thoughts about how you want your legacy to be utilized. What is your hope for the art that you've produced?

DR. MACHADO: Oh, that's selfish. Depends on my answer, I can sound kind of arrogant or - - . Actually, I have no pretensions, or how can I say this? I hadn't thought about that, actually, you know, because I have been working on Dr. Netter's legacy, actually, and so I don't see myself as vital to him.

And I still see myself as somebody that just, well, happened to be here, and to continue his work. I can say that, and so, keep the collection going, and that's the way I have to, well, to honor myself because it's a tremendous honor to work on these projects that Dr. Netter started many, many years ago. So. . .

MS. LOWE: Well, I think that, certainly, from what I've seen, that you've fulfilled an enormous legacy, and so much of the scientific legacy, you know how they say that, on the shoulders of giants, science progresses. And your art certainly is progressing the works of Dr. Netter had started, had begun, so congratulations.

DR. MACHADO: All right. Thank you very much.

MS. LOWE: Thank you very much for talking to me.

DR. MACHADO: Okay. Thank you.

MS. LOWE: All right.