

Tanya Davis - 2016

In the winter of 2016, I was Artist-in-Residence in the Humanities Program at Dalhousie University's Faculty of Medicine. I saw my role to be one of observer, immersing myself however I could and reflecting back what I saw and felt. For instance, I visited the cadaver labs, the Chaplain, and several faculty departments. I also attended lectures relevant to the Humanities. During my time in residence I sought out and had one-on-one conversations with a variety of medical students, so to better understand their perspective and experience and to situate myself in relation to that. I treated these discussions as informal interviews and hoped they were an opportunity for participants to speak candidly—and from a place of emotion—about their thoughts and feelings. I gave a performance of new and old work that was open to students, faculty, and the public. Most notably, I summarized my observations and ideas in an original piece of performance poetry that I delivered at the Medical Humanities Conference in May. That piece has since been edited and will be submitted to several medical journals for possible publication.