

# Dementia and Visual Arts A Case Report

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One can easily overlook the impact of dementia on the affected patients' social life and psychological well-being: the aim of this case report is to integrate these two aspects with the medical view of neurodegenerative diseases, including concepts of pathology, anatomy and semiology, making use of the patient's evolving artistic production, which gives us hints on the artist's moods, attitudes, intentions and practical skills.

In this case report, five paintings of a diagnosed Alzheimer's disease (AD) patient were analyzed. We highlight changes and constants in these works' themes, style, color and visuo-spatial construction and correlate these findings with the progression of signs and symptoms of the disease demonstrated in everyday-life. To have a comprehensive history of the patient, interviews with his family and his painting teacher were conducted, assessing through anecdotes the progression of the disease and its impact on daily life of the patient and his close circle of family; an analysis of five chosen paintings was carried out and then compared to previous research in this area. Previous literature on artistic realization in dementia focused predominantly on professional artists developing AD. Present results were generally inconsistent with such cases: we foremost document simplification in color use and technique, as also oversimplification and abstractionism. These observations may help with the understanding of neurodegenerative disease from an individualized point of view, as well as correlating clinical and anatomical signs with the performance of visual art.

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