

- **You said that you didn't really know what you would be doing during this internship. Could you say something about your surprise at learning that you would be painting? Or how the project aligns with your interests?**

I knew that I would be painting a mural by Sol LeWitt, but before the internship I had no clue what it would look like and I did not know very much about Sol LeWitt. I was surprised to learn that the location of the mural would be in the atrium, and it would be viewable from the front entrance of the hospital. With that in mind, it made me realize that my contributions to the project will have an impact that is visually prominent to anyone who walks into the hospital, giving me the responsibility of contributing to the visitors' and patients' first impression of the hospital.

Another aspect that I was surprised about was that I would be working on a construction site. My first day on the job, I went straight into meetings discussing placement of one of the outdoor sculptures and how site of installation conflicted with structural components, such as power lines and waterpipes below the surface. So much thought goes into the placement for an artwork, taking into consideration structural elements of the surrounding architecture, and functional elements of the hospital space that will be taking place around the piece. I also learned that art can function for wayfinding, allowing visitors and staff to utilize the art as identifying markers of the space to find where they need to go.

As for how this project aligns with my interests, I'm premed and an artist, but I always try to find a way for my interests in medicine to intersect with my art. I'm passionate about using art to understand and present the intricacies of human anatomy and physiology, as well as using art as a vehicle for self-reflection and healing. Being able to create this mural in a hospital space has allowed my artistic skills to serve a greater purpose, knowing that patients and families who are experiencing the most challenging and emotional times, will be able to look to the LeWitt wall drawing for a brief moment of refuge, and experience the unexpected brilliance that the piece exudes from its colorful geometric array. This internship also aligns well with what I am focusing on in my Human Biology major concentration. I'm studying how the mind and body shapes human experience. I've thought a lot about how art can serve as a medium for our minds to reflect on our experiences, and in turn that can reflect how we feel in our bodies and our health.

As a premed, I've spent a fair amount of time shadowing doctors in the hospital; however, this summer, I still shadowed in the hospital, but for placement of art. I found this paradox quite hilarious because I was following my boss, Connie, around through the hospital as she was planning installations, and I couldn't help but think about how she was "diagnosing" the space, and formulating her "treatment" for what works would best suit the room, as well as how people will engage with the pieces. I will never take for granted art installation after this internship because you really have to understand that the art you install has to accommodate the diverse backgrounds of people that will come into the space, which is a no simple task.

- **Did your experience change the way you think about the hospital/patient experience?**

YES definitely! This summer I delved deep into understanding how health can be influenced by our environment. Health is something we don't notice until it is gone and for patients and families who will be spending extended periods of time in the hospital, are trying to make sense of their hospital experience and finding that comfort can be challenging. Creating the mural has allowed me to contribute to fostering an environment that allows visitors to connect to the space and hopefully find artworks that speak to them, and give them an outlet to cope, escape, or contemplate their situation.

- **What do you think LeWitt would think about his work being in a hospital?**

This summer I spent a lot of time researching Sol Lewitt, to better understand his art practice as I painted his work. I wanted to understand his motivations, especially as a conceptual artist, and how I could do that justice in the process of creating the mural. LeWitt's art was in the idea, not the actual physical manifestation. I think he would be fascinated by the way this piece will take on a whole new meaning in a hospital environment, and that his original idea will transmit to those that look at it and essentially transform. Since the art is in the idea of the wall drawing, I can't help but think about how every visitor and staff member in the hospital who will look at the piece will think about the mural, and in turn the art will be in their mind. I think LeWitt would be intrigued by the interactions people will have with the piece and how his art will transcend in a space where individuals come from all walks of life. The artist has even said in this Paragraphs on Conceptual Art, that "different people will understand the same thing in a different way" and with that statement I could only imagine LeWitt's ideas being reborn again and again with each new encounter from every unique individual who comes into the hospital.

- **Did the execution/implementation (what's the correct word here?) of LeWitt's instructions influence your own art practice?**

The execution of this piece completely opposed my artistic practice. I typically work small, not large, more realistic, not abstract, with fine details, not simple geometric forms, and I plan as I go, instead of having the exact plans from the beginning. I think the contradictions of methods that I'm used to was important to my artistic practice because it allowed me to acquire methods and techniques that I would have never ventured into on my own. Painting was extremely physical as well, climbing up scaffolds and using brushstrokes the length of my arm's reach was so different than what I am used to but this physicality was quite meditative. There were moments of more fine detailed work. Taping the linework was quite meticulous, and had to be exact, especially to achieve the seamless distinctions between colors. I love how you can look at it, and your eyes could be fooled into thinking

this was artificial, but it was essentially brought to life by physical labor, all done by hand. I like that paradox, and hope to bring that into my own work.