

College of Physicians and Surgeons

The Shock of Attention: Discoveries of Narrative Medicine Rita Charon, MD, PhD

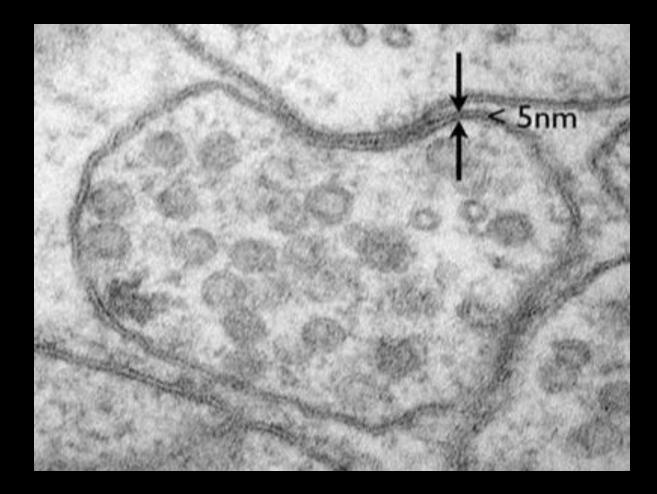
Columbia University

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Merleau-Ponty, "Cézanne's Doubt"

"The artist is the one who arrests the spectacle in which most men take part without really seeing it and who makes it visible to the most 'human' among them."



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Narrative Medicine Principles

- To recognize, absorb, interpret, and be moved to action by stories of illness
- Sources in primary care, narrative studies
- Relational, phenomenal, creative
- Co-construction of illness narratives
- Commitment to social justice



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Movements of Narrative Medicine

Attention—reception, fine perception, use of the self

Representation—capturing the perceived in words or images, use of the imagination

Affiliation—with patients, colleagues, partners toward social justice, self



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