

## Mechanical Lichtenberg Lichtenberg mécanique

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### Artist Statement

A Lichtenberg Figure, or Lichtenberg Tree, is a pattern which often resembles lightning. Within the clinical environment, this distinct pattern can be seen following a cutaneous lightning exposure. However, within the field of radiation oncology, it can also be re-created by irradiating an acrylic block with an electron beam from a linear accelerator, the machine used to deliver therapeutic radiation. I created *Mechanical Lichtenberg* by hammering 651 finishing nails of varying sizes and lengths into a piece of stained cork at different depths, to re-create the lightning like pattern of a Lichtenberg Figure. I then photographed the installation head on, with the Black Point increased to diminish the shadows created by the nails and create a deeper, more striking background, drawing the viewer's focus to the installation.

Within medical education, the concept of the art of medicine often first arises in the pre-clerkship years and becomes more evident with increased experiences in the clinical environment. As we progress through our training, we refine not only our academic and medical knowledge, but also these qualities that are more difficult to define, which allow us to connect with our patients and provide individualized care. This piece aims to highlight the art of medicine through contrasting the mechanical and creative natures of the artwork.

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