

Telemedicine

Ruth H. Walker,
MB, ChB, PhD

Correspondence to
Dr. Walker:
ruth.walker@mssm.edu

The man on my screen is weeping.
Tilting, hunched in his wheelchair
He holds up his paintings to the camera,
Mumbles into the microphone,
Shows me a densely colored paper,
Now ripped a little on one side.

In my office, to my camera,
I say—I like it, is it a mountain?
He says—it's a pink flamingo.
He just wants to show me
He's still the same lauded artist,
But the pixels frustrate his intentions,
As much as his depleted dopamine.

I pretend that I have something to give,
A small adjustment to his medication,
An instruction for a blood test.
This technology has saved him a day's travel,
But has left me with empty hands.

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