

Michiko Maruyama

Master of Design in
Industrial Design

Department of Art & Design,
Faculty of Arts

Image created in
the Industrial Design studio,
University of Alberta

Changing the World – One Toy at Time

Semi-finalist

Drawing on my unique combination of industrial design, graphic art, and medical training, I aim to create educational resources that facilitate knowledge transfer and communication between physician and child. Since children learn through play, I was inspired to dedicate my Master of Industrial Design Thesis Work to the creation of education toys. Under the supervision of Robert Lederer, an experienced designer and associate professor at the University of Alberta, I am creating a series of educational toys that will teach children about cardiac health. These educational toys will teach basic cardiac anatomy, introduce medical terminology, discuss the importance of cardiac health and encourage a cardiac healthy lifestyle. By introducing the importance of cardiac health at an early age, the potential beneficial long term outcome is a decrease in the incidence of cardiac disease among the adult population. This image represents both my industrial design graduate studies research and my cardiac surgery residency training. The combination of graduate studies and medical residency is key to my research of integrating art, design and medicine. In this image, I combined my recent acrylic painting “Susie the Surgeon” (inspired by the “We Can Do It!” poster) with sketches of my educational toy design projects.