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AATA NEWS

How Art Therapy Helps Children Make Sense of the Insensible



AATA



During the month of May, starting with the kickoff event on National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the AATA is highlighting topics related to children's mental health in *Art Therapy Today*. One way to make art therapy accessible to every child is to bring it to the schools. An AATA staff member took the opportunity to interview an expert in the setting of school-based art therapy, both in the classroom and in program design, to discuss how children can use art therapy to reconcile and process the chaos of both the outside world and their internal selves. [READ MORE](#)

The National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies Associations



Donna Betts, PhD, ATR-BC. AATA President

The National Coalition of Creative Arts Therapies Associations (NCCATA) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) alliance of organizations dedicated to the advancement of the creative arts therapies (CATs) professions. Founded in 1979, the NCCATA represents over 15,000 individual members of six CATs associations based in the United States. The NCCATA Board gathered for its annual in-person meeting in Chicago, on April 29, 2017. The Executive Committee is composed of Past Presidents of the CATs member groups.



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#AATA2017 Conference: Infusion of Art Therapy Research in Expansive Program

Girija Kaimal, EdD, MA, Research Committee Chair

Looking for the latest art therapy research initiatives, findings, and best practices to expand your knowledge? The AATA's 48th Annual Conference program is infused with research that delivers! The AATA Research Committee is at the forefront of encouraging, supporting, and promoting a broad base of art therapy research that is grounded in diverse methodologies. They help ensure quality opportunities at the conference for you to earn continuing education, network with leading researchers, and participate in informal discussion groups. Their goal is to inspire you to embrace art therapy research and help expand the profession. Early bird registration is now open until June 16 with the best rates of the year! [READ MORE](#)



**ART THERAPY:
TRAVERSING
LANDSCAPES
OF HEART & MIND**

NOVEMBER 8 - 12, 2017 • ALBUQUERQUE, NM

The AATA Signs onto Three Letters Protecting Coverage for Mental Health Services

AATA

The American Art Therapy Association has recently signed onto three letters with collaborating organizations to protect and advocate for coverage of mental health services. One letter responds to an invitation to suggest improvements to the Medicare Advantage program, another urges a funding extension for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and the third reaffirms concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the American Healthcare Act (AHCA). [READ MORE](#)



Professional Doctorate of Art Therapy

This Mount Mary University program advances working professionals' careers through



an annual, summer 12-day residency, online coursework and practitioner-generated research to transform the profession.

Pearlie Roberson Scholarship Award



AATA

On behalf of the Multicultural Sub-Committee, AATA student and professional members are encouraged to apply for the ***Pearlie Roberson Annual Scholarship Award***. The award honors Ms. Roberson's request to "remember me" and supports efforts to "explore, express, connect...to enhance the multicultural aspects of the therapeutic experience." The merit-based award provides up to \$1,000.00 financial support for a project proposal targeting multicultural aspects and capacities of art therapy. The award may be split between recipients. Awardees are expected to present the outcomes of the winning project(s) at the American Art Therapy Association Annual Conference. In addition, Pearlie Roberson Scholarship Award Projects will be under consideration for placement in the American Art Therapy Association Archives. If you are interested in submitting an application for this award, [please see MyAATA for more information and to download the application](#). **All applications must be received by June 2, 2017**. Please submit any questions to the National Office (info@arttherapy.org).

AATA Releases New Overview Video about Art Therapy



AATA



What makes art therapy such a powerful and effective form of treatment? The American Art Therapy Association (AATA) believes that art therapy, as an integrative mental health and human services profession, enriches the lives of individuals, families, and communities through active art-making, creative process, applied psychological theory, and human experience within a psychotherapeutic relationship. View our video "[The Art Therapy Profession: An Overview](#)" on how some art therapists responded to that same question.

AATA Featured Member



AATA



Maria Romani de Goes, MPS, LCAT, ATR works in a private practice in Brooklyn, NY primarily with multicultural families and foreign-born individuals. Over the past ten years, she has worked with multicultural families in different stages of development and in a variety of settings, including family services and mental health facilities. Maria is a faculty member in the graduate Creative Arts Therapy program at Pratt Institute in NY and is an alumna of the same program. Maria values her AATA membership and, in particular, uses the Journal and professional resources available on the AATA website in her teaching and practice. [READ MORE](#)

IN THE NEWS

Look both ways: Mental Health Awareness Month 2017



American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

With so many messages about suicide coming at you through the media and entertainment — whether it's 13 Reasons Why, the S-Town podcast, or disturbing stories in the news — it's important to know you can stop suicide simply by being aware and taking action. Aware of the risk factors and warning signs that can lead to suicide...aware of how to have a caring conversation with someone you're worried about...aware that help is always available...aware of the fact that prevention starts with simply approaching mental health like the real

and important aspect of health that it is. [READ MORE](#)



**ART THERAPY: TRAVERSING
LANDSCAPES OF HEART & MIND**

AMERICAN ART THERAPY ASSOCIATION 48TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 8 - 12, 2017 • ALBUQUERQUE, NM

5 views of the healing power of the arts



Americans for the Arts

Susan Saloom writes: "I have seen the arts and health movement grow exponentially since my initial involvement with the National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military at Americans for the Arts in 2014. In military and civilian populations alike, from the existence of arts therapies of all disciplines to institutional and landscaping design, clinical research is now giving us the statistics to prove that the arts not only help us heal mentally, physically, and morally, but enhance our well-being, improve our coping skills, and help us build resiliency." [READ MORE](#)

Remembering a horrific camp known for art



The Wisconsin Jewish Chronicle

A spring series of local events focuses on creativity during the Holocaust, looking deeply at how art was part of the lives of people and children imprisoned in a Czech concentration camp. People created art in many of the camps used by Germans to imprison Jews and others, but what happened at Terezin was special. [READ MORE](#)

Artful: A creative approach to dementia research



Aged Care Guide

"Artful" is a free, 10 week creative art program in which people with dementia find their own meanings and connections to contemporary art by viewing, painting, sculpting and drawing in group sessions with Artist Educators. However, it is also a 3 year research initiative spearheaded by the Brain and Mind Center, in collaboration with University of Sydney and Alzheimer's Australia NSW, exploring how art affects the neuroplasticity of dementia sufferers. [READ MORE](#)

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