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AATA NEWS

Share Your Stories of Art Therapy on Social Media



AATA National Office

We're kicking off our 50th anniversary year with a fun, collaborative social media project celebrating the art therapy profession! Throughout January, daily themes and prompts invite people to share memories, reflections, and moments related to art therapy. Already, participants have shared dozens of remarkable personal stories on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) about their journey to art therapy, as well as heartfelt memories and experiences about being or becoming an art therapist. [READ MORE](#)



Conference News: Be a Presenter at the 50th Anniversary Conference This Fall!



Susan Boxer Kappel, MA, ATR-BC, LCAT, CGP, Conference Chair



There are just two weeks left to [submit your proposal](#) for the 2019 Annual Conference. Join a prestigious collection of presenters at the AATA's 50th Annual Conference to be held October 30 to November 3, 2019 in Kansas City, Missouri. Submissions are due on February 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. ET. Visit the [Proposal Submission site](#) to learn more.

[READ MORE](#)

Featured Member



AATA National Office



Melissa Fannin, MA, ATR, LPC, recently celebrated the one year anniversary of her private practice, [Fannin Counseling & Art Therapy](#). She is an AATA member because, "I simply like knowing that I have an entire community that I can lean on." "I find comfort in that," she adds. Fannin particularly valued her recent experience at the 2018 AATA conference in Miami where she "reunited with former classmates and instructors and felt reconnected to the art therapy community." She found it "inspiring and rejuvenating to be a part of the community." [READ MORE](#)

ART THERAPY IN THE NEWS

Science and Culture: Searching For the Science Behind Art Therapy



PNAS

John sat hunched over, ears red, cursing the paint under his breath. A war veteran not an artist, John (not his real name) hadn't painted with water colors before. But he and seven other combat veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars weren't trying to master a new artistic medium. They were all seeking relief from posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through a form of psychotherapy called art therapy. [READ MORE](#)



Reclaiming Joy: Purvi Shah, MS Communications Design '95, Creates Spaces Where Art Heals



Pratt

Purvi Shah knows the anxiety of waiting. Waiting for the delayed doctor's appointment to begin, waiting for the uncertain outcome of test results, waiting as treatment took its course for her young son as he battled the disease that forever changed her family's life. In that liminal space reigned by chaos, Shah knew she needed to create a haven for her son and his older brother—and later for hundreds of other children and siblings experiencing cancer. [READ MORE](#)

As Shutdown Crawls On, Artists And Nonprofits Fear For Their 'Fragile Industry'



NPR

Jill Rorem, like many Americans, had made some special plans for the holidays. The Chicago native, whose legal work often brings her to Washington, D.C., was finally going to get to see the nation's capital with her arts-obsessed kids. "I have very nerdy daughters, and they're super cool. Like, my oldest kid was Andy Warhol for Halloween," Rorem says. So they'd planned a grand tour of the city's museums, from the National Gallery of Art to the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, maybe even the zoo if she could convince her husband. [READ MORE](#)



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Government Shutdown Increasing Stress on Federal Workers, Contractors,



Families, APA Says

American Psychological Association

The American Psychological Association called for an immediate end to the partial government shutdown because of the deleterious effect it is having on the economic security and mental health of federal employees and contractors, as well as their families. "The stress of uncertainty and missed paychecks is putting enormous pressure on the 800,000 furloughed federal workers, as well as government contractors and the many businesses that rely on federal workers," said APA President Rosie Phillips Davis, PhD. **READ MORE**

RAW's 'Seat At the Table' Art Display Holds History



ItemLive.com

The art display in the windowsill of Raw Art Works may look like just a wooden table and chairs, but it serves a bigger purpose. A "Seat at the Table" is an idea that came from the mind of Jason Cruz, RAW's clinical supervisor and master's level expressive art therapist, but was visualized by the art center's students. The traveling art display is a multi-faceted representation of women of color who have struggled to have their voice heard in American history, said Cruz. **READ MORE**

The AATA's Art Therapy Today includes a digest of the most important news selected for the AATA from thousands of sources. Guest articles may be submitted to Clara Keane at ckeane@arttherapy.org. Publication of any guest article is at the sole discretion of the AATA. The opinions expressed and/or contents of guest articles, advertisements, and external links included in any AATA publication do not represent the positions or policies of the AATA. The AATA makes no warranty or representation concerning the accuracy of such content.

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