

ATOL: Art Therapy OnLine

Editorial

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Following the result of the vote from the UK referendum to leave the European Union, this issue emerges out of a period of uncertainty, yet it is interesting to observe how integrated the contributions are from Europe and beyond.

For example, from Finland, Liisa Girard writes about her historical work with traumatized men in her article 'Adam's Hut'. This paper harks back to a time where creative process and form were privileged above focus on 'meaning'.

In a complimentary way, Chris Wood, from the UK, writes about how the impact of diagnosis for people living with psychosis affects their lives and prospects. Wood, charts the impact of dogma and policy on art therapy practice and the depth of meaningful experience for clients.

Mia Cavaliero usefully explores the meaning and function of repetition in art and art therapy. Her article provides an important point of reflection on this not unfamiliar characteristic of art therapy practice experience.

In a not too distantly related way, Noa Fellous and Jonathan Isserow offer a narrative examining the relevance of art-based attunement. This factor, they argue, echoes the infant-caregiver relationship as experienced in the context of the therapeutic relationship with the client, the therapist, the art object and their joint attention.

There are two new developments for ATOL in this issue. The first, is the addition of what we've called 'Notes from the Field'. These pieces are in effect elements of reportage describing developments in art therapy across the globe.

Firstly, Zuzana Krnakova charts her experience of training in an UK university and, after returning to her homeland, Slovakia, experiencing the struggle to gain recognition in an established and historical system.

Secondly, from Africa, Edward Bbira, reports on a project with disadvantaged children in Kampala, Uganda.

Thirdly, from the USA, Gordon Chinamesa, Thomas M. Christian and Ron Kimbell, report on their research into the appearance of 'luminous astronomical objects', frequently the sun, in the representations of children.

The second, new development, is the inclusion of an 'opinion piece'. In this first example, Dave Edwards writes about a speech he recently gave at the end of year art therapy student exhibition at Derby University. ATOL are interested in responses from readers who might agree or disagree with the points being made.

To round off this bumper issue, we have five varied and engaging book reviews. The first, by Leslie Morris, describes 'Multi-Cultural Family Art Therapy' edited by Christine Kerr.

Arnell Etherington reviews Joy Schaverien's latest publication 'Boarding School Syndrome: the psychological trauma of the 'privileged' child'.

Tess Crane, shares her impressions of 'Mentalization and Art Therapy' by Marianne Verfaillie.

Diana Kagiava reviews the interesting area of 'Art Therapy with Physical Conditions' edited by Marian Leibmann and Sally Weston.

Our final book review of this issue addresses the important topic of time-limited art psychotherapy in a welcomed book, edited by Rose Hughes, reviewed by Laura Richardson who has expertise in this particular area of practice.

Emma MacKinnon reviews 'someunconsciousthings', an exhibition held at the Freud Museum in London, of work by art psychotherapy course tutors from Goldsmiths, University of London.

Jill Westwood pays respect and acknowledgement to the tremendous contribution made by Harriett Wadeson, who sadly died early this year, to the worldwide development and status of art therapy.

Through our growing readership and the generous efforts of our contributors, there is an exceptional richness to this issue. This enables ATOL to continue to make a significant contribution to the literature. ATOL welcomes contributions from authors' regardless of their writing experience.

In conclusion, and importantly, we have to say a sad goodbye to Julia Meyerowitz-Katz, a founder member of ATOL. Julia's energy, creativity and intellectual clarity will be very much missed.