

ATOL: Art Therapy OnLine

Editorial

Christopher Brown and Robin Tipple

Following publication of the Conference Proceedings of the International Art Therapy Conference 2013 in the last issue of ATOL (5,1) we now return to our regular content of peer reviewed articles and other items of interest.

For the first time, we have an interview with an art therapist about her work. Eileen McGann, who practices and teaches in New York, USA is interviewed by Lucia Simoncicova from Slovakia. Some additional context for the interview is provided through a recent article by Eileen McGann, discussing her work with children and adolescents who have experienced trauma.

In another kind of interview Kate Rothwell and Emer Douglas present an unusual but fascinating video whose aesthetic deliberately seeks to evoke in the viewer something of the therapist's experience of working with her client. It combines images made by the client with audio recording of them both giving a presentation of their work together to other professionals. There is a separate text, which gives context to the video.

Another example of practice, in the form of a case study, is from Daphna Markman Zinemanas who explores visual symbol formation and it's use when working with victims of childhood sexual abuse. She explores the ways in which the bilateral relations

between visual symbol formation and inter-subjectivity may enhance emotional processes that cannot occur in the same manner in non-visual symbol formation.

We are very pleased to have gained permission to re-publish a seminal article by Andrea Gilroy from 2008 in the hope that it finds the wider audience it deserves. Originally published in the International Journal of Art and Design Education (JADE) this paper presents a heuristic analysis of a personal experience of looking at art, and an argument is made for an expansion of art therapy practices and discourses. We present it here in a version with additional images.

Chris Wood provides a stimulating and thought provoking article about the importance of the physical spaces in which we practice art therapy. Drawing on ideas about architecture, links between public and private space as a basis for health, she constructs an argument to re-think how services are provided for vulnerable people in our cities.

Robin Tipple brings his experience in the field to bear on his review of a new book – ‘Art Therapy and Learning Disabilities – “Don’t guess my happiness”’ Edited by Stephanie Bull and Kevin O’Farrell.

We were saddened by the news of the death of Edith Kramer age 97. This represents a considerable loss to the art therapy world but we should also celebrate her creative contribution to the profession. Karin Dannecker has kindly written an obituary from both personal and professional knowledge of Edith's life and work.

As always, ATOL welcomes submissions from around the world and details of how to submit are available under contact in the menu bar. The next issue will be edited by Tessa Dalley and Barry Damarell.

