



## MEDIA ADVISORY

*Art therapy's effectiveness with refugee and migrant populations, people with substance abuse, youth in schools, and community growth following natural disasters and gun violence to be discussed at the American Art Therapy Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference*

*October 30-November 3, Kansas City, MO*

### WHAT

**The American Art Therapy Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: *Celebrating 50 Years of Healing Through Art Therapy*** to be held October 30 to November 3, 2019 at the Marriott Kansas City Downtown will convene 1,000 art therapists from around the country and the globe for 230 educational sessions that will highlight art therapy with refugee and migrant populations, including international perspectives on trauma-informed and culturally-relevant care. Sessions will also address two major national crises: students coping with gun violence in schools and more broadly, children's mental health; and the opioid epidemic.

### WHO

The American Art Therapy Association (AATA) is the nation's leading voice for art therapy. Art therapists are clinicians with Masters-level or higher degrees trained in art and therapy that serve diverse communities in different settings, from medical institutions and wellness centers, to schools and independent practices. They are credentialed mental health care professionals who care deeply about the communities they support, helping to advance their mental, emotional and physical well-being.

Every day, art therapists help victims of violence and trauma, including military service members; older adults with dementia or Alzheimer's disease; children living with social or behavioral challenges such as autism; and anyone coping with life's challenges.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **Congresswoman Sharice Davids (KS-3)** (Sat., Nov. 2, 11:30 am) – Meet and greet. The Congresswoman will address attendees and welcome them to Kansas City.
- ***The Journey of the Refugee's Mind: Understanding the Psychological Stages of Forced Migration*** (Sat., Nov. 2, 1:15 pm) – Keynote Session by **Dr. Essam Daod**, psychiatrist, psychotherapist, Co-Founder and Mental Health Director of Humanity Crew.
- ***Art Therapy with Refugee and Migrant Populations*** (Sat., Nov. 2, 2:30 pm) – Master Class with Dr. Essam Daod and a panel of art therapists.
- ***Breaking the Chains of Racial Trauma in Therapy*** (Thu., Oct. 31, 8 am) – Plenary Session with psychotherapist **Dr. Angela Roman Clack** and members of the AATA's **Multicultural Committee**.
- ***50 Years, Five Therapists, Five Cases: The Power of the Work We Do*** (Fri., Nov. 1, 8 am) – Plenary Session. Each panelist will share the story of one case that had significant implications in their career and in the life of the client involved.
- ***AATA Then, Now and in the Future*** (Thu., Oct 31, 5:30 pm) – Social mixer, awards celebration, and presentation. Attendees will walk the red carpet and celebrate AATA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style. The social mixer will be followed by an awards ceremony recognizing art therapy's rising stars and a presentation by a panel of its pioneers, including local

pioneer **Charles Anderson** who worked at the Menninger Clinic for over 40 years beginning in 1962 before AATA was founded.

- **Art Therapy Film Festival** (Thu., Oct 31., 2:45 pm) – Each film screening will be followed with a discussion with the filmmaker. Films include, *Art Therapy at the Department of Juvenile Justice*, *Journey Through Art Therapy*, *Blue*, *Sylvia*, *Fierce Love & Art*, *How Art Heals: Integrating Practice and Research*, and *Life Choices in Art Therapy*.
- **Embracing Diversity: Piece by Piece** – Quilt Project. Participants will each complete a quilt block, creating a quilt that will be raffled off at the 2020 conference to support an AATA multicultural scholarship fund.

It is meaningful that AATA will celebrate our milestone conference so close where art therapy has its roots. One of the very first art therapy programs in the U.S. was established in the 1950's at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kansas. Art therapists remain integrated in the community today. In addition, art therapy students will be attending from across the country, including **Emporia State University**, one of the largest graduate schools offering art therapy.

### SPECIAL KANSAS CITY PROGRAMMING

- **Kansas State Representative Jerry Stogsdill (District 21)** (Fri., Nov. 1, 10 am) – Public Policy Focus Group. As a sponsor of the Kansas art therapy licensure bill, Representative Stogsdill will share strategies with attendees about how to be effective advocates for art therapy legislation.
- **Strangers in Town: A Documentary Film About Immigration Reflects Art in Action!** (Thur., Oct. 31, 10 am) – **Stephen Lerner**, clinical psychologist and a film maker, highlights social and environmental challenges by looking thoughtfully at their impact and lived experiences from local perspectives. His films depict the beauty of Kansas and the spirit of her people.
- **Multicultural Exchange Forum** (Fri., Nov. 1, 3:45 pm) – This year's forum will feature local artist **Michael Vance Toombs**, painter, art activist, and founder and CEO of Storytellers Inc, who will explore the connection of creative place-making and participatory art making as the catalyst for bringing together communities to preserve legacy and bring about healing.
- **"F" Word: Feminism Today...Right Now!** (Fri., Nov. 1, 11 am) – Pop-Up learning session by **Arzie Umali**, Assistant Director of the Women's Center at the University of Missouri - Kansas City.
- **High Impact Learning and Mentoring** – **Emporia State University** is sponsoring 31 art therapy students in undergraduate and graduate pairs for a year-long mentorship program centered on their conference experience.

For the full conference schedule and program, visit [www.arttherapyconference.com](http://www.arttherapyconference.com)

### WHEN

October 30 - November 3, 2019

### WHERE

Marriott Kansas City Downtown, 200 West 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105 USA.

### CONTACT

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