

2010 Joint World Conference on Social Work and Social Development: The Agenda
Pre- and Post- Conference Skills Training Workshop –

Sensitive Use of Art in Social Work

Time: 9:00 – 17:00
Date: 9 June, 2010 (Wednesday)
Fee: US\$50 / HK\$400
Venue: Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong
Trainer: 1. Ms. Debra Kalmanowitz 2. Dr. Jordan S. POTASH

ABSTRACT

Many therapists, nurses and social workers recognise the value of art in therapeutic work. The arts are a perfect tool to incorporate into many clinical, medical, and community settings. Introducing the arts can bring clients new opportunities for expression, communication, and healing. The arts work on many levels at one and the same time; whether cognitive, emotional, or behavioural, as well as conscious and unconscious. The arts often open up options- where it seems there are none, and the client may be surprised and relieved by the process.

Some professionals try to use art in their clinical work, but are limited in their skills and knowledge of this subject. A field that is intimately familiar with the benefits of introducing art in helping contexts is the field of art therapy. Art therapists are masters level professionals who specialize in using visual art for the purpose of therapy by paying careful attention to art materials, directives, and interpretation.

This full-day workshop will introduce participants to the potential of safely using the arts in their own work. This is not an art therapy training, but a training in the use of art in the context of social work. The workshop will address the theory and the practice of different elements in what we are calling the sensitive use of art in therapeutic context of social work. These workshops will teach and reinforce art therapy concepts of containment, boundaries, observing, witnessing, and confidentiality in order to develop ethical practice.

WORKSHOPS

The workshop objectives are:

1. Participants will gain an understanding of basic principles in using art therapeutically in the context of social work.
2. Participants will identify how art making can be incorporated into their work settings.
3. Participants will learn to use art safely in clinical practice, in regards to physical safety and emotional well-being.

BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS (SHORT)

Debra KALMANOWITZ, MA, RATH (expressive arts therapist, Hong Kong): Debra is a Registered Art Therapist (UK). She has worked extensively in the context of trauma, political violence, and social change; locally, internationally and in countries of conflict. Debra is the co-author of the edited book *Art Therapy and Political Violence: With art, without illusion*. She works freelance as art therapist and supervisor, and continues to co-direct ATI (Art Therapy Initiative).

Jordan S. POTASH, MA, ATR-BC, LCAT (art therapist, Hong Kong): Jordan is a registered and board certified art therapist and licensed creative arts therapist (USA). He works in private practice and is pursuing a PhD at The University of Hong Kong. He is a past chair of the Multicultural Committee of the American Art Therapy Association and lectures at The George Washington University and the University of Hong Kong.

BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS (LONG)

Debra Kalmanowitz (MA RaTH) has worked as an art therapist since 1992. She has worked in a diverse range of settings, and has worked extensively in the context of trauma, political violence, and social change; locally, internationally and in countries of conflict, war and upheaval. She has worked with both adults and children in- Israel, Canada, the USA and UK. In addition to co-running and co-establishing (1992) a small non-profit organization - the Art Therapy Initiative (ATI) <http://www.atinitiative.org/> - she worked for eight years as a Senior Art Therapist and supervisor in the Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy team at the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, North London. Debra also supervises, consults and trains other professionals in this work.

Debra has co-written and published many art therapy articles and two books. Her most recent book is *Art Therapy and Political Violence: With art, without illusion* an edited book published by, Routledge in 2005.

Debra currently lives in Hong Kong where she works as a free lance art therapist and supervisor in addition she continues to work internationally and to make her own art. She is a member of the British Association of Art Therapists and BAAT –approved supervisor and a member of the Hong Kong Association of Art Therapists. She holds a Masters in Expressive Arts Therapies from Lesley University, Mass.

Jordan Potash (MA ATR-BC, LCAT) has been working as a professional art therapist since 2000. He has worked in a variety of settings with a diverse range of clients. His experiences in art therapy include working in a therapeutic art studio at a school for severely emotionally disturbed adolescents, founding a school and community based mental health program, serving as resident art therapist at a youth grief camp, and facilitating expressive arts programs in a community art studio. Currently, he works at Psychology Resources in Hong Kong.

Jordan is a member of the faculty of the graduate training program at The George Washington University in Washington DC (USA) where he taught adolescent art therapy and social and cultural diversity, in addition to developing the course human development and art therapy.

Jordan is a member of the American Art Therapy Association, where he is a past chair of the Multicultural Committee and currently a member of the Advanced Practice Committee for Multicultural Education. He is also a member of the Hong Kong Association of Art Therapists and the Psychotherapy Society of Hong Kong. Jordan holds a masters degree in art therapy from The George Washington University, is a registered and board certified art therapist in the US, and is a licensed creative arts therapist in the state of New York (US). He is studying for a PhD in social work and social administration at The University of Hong Kong.