Member Spotlight:

Lisa D'Innocenzo, MFA, ATR, LCPC

Lisa trained as a fiber artist at SAIC and the University of Wisconsin before graduating from SAIC’s MAAT program. She has been in the trenches of art therapy for about 10 years, working in inpatient psychiatric hospitals. Along the way, she returned to teach art therapy graduate students at SAIC for several years, and joined a group practice that specializes in the integration of spirituality and psychotherapy.

She presents regularly at professional conferences, drawing on her experience of working with acute mental illness in marginalized and oppressed populations. Her recent work, “The Inner Mandala,” will be presented at the AATA conference in November. Her experience as a puppeteer and maker of puppets has informed her creative and clinical work in many ways, and will be making an appearance at an IATA workshop involving puppetry and fiber arts in the fall.

Lisa is a professional editor of academic papers and books in the humanities and social sciences, and an occasional exhibiting photographer.

Q&A with Lisa D'Innocenzo:

IATA: What was the best advice ever given to you?
Lisa: “It doesn't go wrong, it just goes different.”
A mentor gave me this when I was feeling discouraged, and I’ve passed it on to many students and clients. It helped me see possibilities rather than failures.

**IATA: What advice would you give art therapy students and young professionals?**

Lisa: It’s crucial to know who you are as an art therapist. While our professional identities develop and unfold over time, I believe that we are successful to the extent that we know ourselves and believe in the value of what we bring to the profession. Find what you do well, and joyfully, and trust that. Do it your way, because you’re the only person who can. Whether one’s focus is individual or systemic, local or global, if you’re doing it well, and authentically, you will make a difference.

Art therapy is so rich and varied, and I love that it continues to expand its own definition and scope of practice. But the power of our work depends on our own authentic connection to it, which means no one else can tell you how to practice or whom to serve.

**IATA: What have you found to be most rewarding in your career as an art therapist thus far?**

Lisa: I’ve been fortunate to have worked with individuals and groups of some of the most marginalized and impoverished populations in our city. I’ve witnessed people who literally owned nothing, extend compassionate attention to others, and try to help them. It’s an ongoing lesson in spiritual and cultural humility.

Some years ago, I set up a drawing directive in a large, diverse group at the hospital, where they paired up and had a silent “conversation” through art making. An elderly Jewish woman and a young African American man who had served time in prison were working together. At the end, the older woman expressed a sense of appreciation for the young man’s abilities, and he remarked, “I felt like she heard me.” Those are the moments I live for.

Send recommendations for member features to communications.iata@gmail.com.

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**Mark your calendars!**

**Next monthly meet-up:**
Sunday, May 26

**Jeni's Ice Cream**
Sunday, May 26, 2019, 2:00-4:00pm
1419 N. Well St.
Chicago, IL

*Note: The next monthly meeting will take place on Sunday, May 26, 2019, 2:00pm-4:00pm @ Jeni’s Ice Cream (1419 N. Wells, Chicago). There will not be an online option for this month’s meeting.*

This meet-up event series aims to offer a range of activities for members, nonmembers, and friends of IATA to meet, network, and hang out. Please send suggestions for future meet-ups to programs.iata@gmail.com.

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**Attention:** IATA is seeking a Director of Membership and Nominations

Are you?
IATA, Director of Membership and Nominations

Call for Facilitators

IATA is looking for fiber makers and puppet makers to lead skill share workshops for 2019. All skill levels welcome. Please email us with your name, preferred workshop, medium and materials needed, and any other necessary materials, such as direction sheets. Feel free to email us with other future workshop ideas.

Becca and Meredith
programs.iata@gmail.com

Upcoming Events and Programs

Friday, June 28, 6-8pm:
Board Exhibit
Sunday, August 18, 2-4pm:
Fiber Workshop
Friday, September 6, 6-8:30pm:
IMPACT Exhibition
Sunday, October 20, 2-4pm:
Puppet Making Workshop
November/December: Art Market

Stay tuned for more details...

AATA Corner

Take advantage of early bird registration.

2019 Short Film Festival
American Art Therapy Association

Call for Entries

The Challenge:
Create a short film exploring the theme of Art Therapy: Celebrating 50 Years of Healing Through Art

Limit:
Must be 15 minutes or less

To Apply:
ArtTherapyConference.com/highlights

Deadline:
August 1st, 2019
Selected films will be screened October 31st at the 2019 AATA Conference in Kansas City

For more info contact aata@arttherapyassociation.com
AATA is accepting entries for the 2019 Short Film Festival.

Job Opportunities
Check out the job listings on the IATA website.

Join the IATA Board!
If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else for a 2019 IATA Board position, contact nominations.iata@gmail.com.

Ideas and Suggestions
Contact IATA with ideas and suggestions for: news, job opportunities, featured members, advocacy opportunities, programs and events, etc...

Anne Zakaras, MA
Director of Marketing and Communications

Illinois Art Therapy Association | illinoisarttherapy.org