

International Journal of Art Therapy: Inscape

Call for Submissions for a Special Issue of the *International Journal of Art Therapy: Inscape* on 'Art Therapy and physical conditions'.

Following the conference on this topic in February this year, a special issue of the *International Journal of Art Therapy: Inscape* is planned for 2010. We invite submissions from art therapists about work with clients who have used art therapy to work on issues arising from 'medical' or physical conditions. Submissions are welcome from those who presented at the conference and from others.

If you wish your article to be considered for this special issue, please submit an abstract of 150-200 words. Support in preparing an article can be offered by a member of the editorial board if required but all articles will be subject to peer review in the normal way. Published articles will be up to 7,000 words and we welcome shorter submissions.

Detailed Instructions for Authors can be found on the Journal website: www.tandf.co.uk/journals/rart.

The deadline for abstracts is 31st August 2009.

For further information or to discuss a possible submission please email Sally Weston, Guest Editor, *IJAT: Inscape* at s.a.weston@btinternet.com

Topics covered

We are hoping to cover a range of conditions, settings, age groups and approaches; we aim to prioritise areas not written about before- and are keen to hear the experiences of art therapist working in specialist fields even if the work is with small client numbers. We hope to include first time authors as well as those who have published before and case study based articles are welcome. The special issue will consider implications for Art therapists' practice in this field.

The range of conditions could include:

- Long-term conditions such as acquired brain injury (including stroke); spinal injury; epilepsy and other non degenerative conditions such as Cancer, HIV/AIDS.
- Degenerative conditions, including multiple sclerosis; motor neurone disease, rheumatoid arthritis or Alzheimer's disease.
- Life threatening illnesses:
- Disfigurement (from e.g. burns or facial injury); post traumatic stress resulting from trauma to the body (road traffic incident, or other, incident accident or assault).
- Issues connected with fertility or childbirth.

Settings could be specialist in a hospital, hospice or rehabilitation setting or non specialist such as mental health service, G.P Surgery, forensic or Learning Disability Service, as long as the client was dealing with issues arising from physical or so called 'medical' conditions.

The following is a summary of some of the themes emerging at the conference.

For clients:

Trauma, loss, grief, adjustment to changes, stigma, existential concerns, meaning of life, spiritual concerns, dependency, art making as escape from current unavoidable pain and loss.

The services:

Implications of separated mental/ physical health services in westernised medical model: Psychological services scant for those in general hospitals, neglect of physical health issues of people in the mental health service. Place of psychodynamic thinking and boundaries. .

For Therapists:

- Relationship with carers; working in settings with medical and or psychosocial models; psychodynamic understandings of illness/disability/the body.
- Adapting uses of art materials; response to institutional dynamics.

The ideas above are intended to inspire, not be prescriptive. This is a field that has been little recorded yet and we are very keen to hear therapists own voices about their clients and the context you work in.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

