



Psychology and Mental Health in Contemporary Art

Guest Editor:

Dr. Melissa Ragain

Associate Professor, School of
Art, Montana State University,
Bozeman, MT 59717, USA

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

In 1968 Rudolf Arnheim was hired by Harvard University as a Professor of the Psychology of Art. While he was the only person to acquire the official title of “Art psychologist,” his hiring represented the institutionalization of a trend in mid-century art pedagogy. Gestalt psychology and American behaviorism joined psychoanalysis as both art historical methods and generative theories of artistic production.

With this special issue, *Arts* creates a space for art to speak back to psychology. How, for example, does contemporary art make demands of science? How does art critique psychology’s methods of diagnosis and treatment, its terminology, and its categorizations? How do the disciplines of art and psychology affect the ways we conceptualize perception, subjectivity, representation, identity, and aesthetic experience? How does art respond to the recent turn toward “wellness”? How have artists anticipated psycho-social needs that mental health professionals cannot yet see, and therefore cannot yet address?

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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Andrew M. Nedd

Department of Art History,
Savannah College of Art and
Design, Savannah, GA 31402, USA

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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Contact Us

Arts Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
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