

MELISSA DIAZ, BFA, MPS, ATR-BC, LCAT

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EDUCATION/CREDENTIALS:

- 2015 Registered & Board Certified Art Therapist, ATCB: 15-024
2014 New York State Licensed Creative Arts Therapist: 001756
2010 **Pratt Institute**, Brooklyn, New York, Art Therapy & Creativity Development, MPS,
Thesis Research: Art Exhibitions as a Therapeutic Intervention for Adults with Mental Illness.
2006 **University of Central Florida**, Orlando, Florida
Bachelor of Fine Arts, Painting & Sculpture, Minor Psychology

EXPERIENCE:

- 09/19-Present *Senior Art Therapist, New York Creative Arts Therapists PLLC, Brooklyn NY*
- Provide individual art therapy services for children, adults and families.
 - Facilitate Art Therapy groups and Burn Out groups for helping professionals.
 - Curate Art Spa gallery space.
 - Author progress notes and group curriculum.
- 09/18-Present *Visiting Instructor, Pratt Institute, Fieldwork/Supervision & Materials Courses, Graduate Art Therapy Department, Brooklyn, NY*
- Provide instruction in the therapeutic uses of 2d and 3d materials.
 - Facilitate group and individual supervision.
 - Guide group processing & implement art directives to better understand clinical practice.
 - Provide Ethics Training and education in Licensure/Professional Development.
- 04/10-Present *Founder/Director, Open House Brooklyn: Community Arts Initiative, Brooklyn, NY*
- Coordinate arts exhibitions, within alternative spaces throughout Brooklyn.
 - Direct and Curate all event planning with emphasis on community art and accessibility.
 - Develop and facilitate creative arts and art therapy workshops and classes.
 - Manage supply inventory and programming budget
 - Work directly with artists and participants
- 8/18-8/19 *Assistant Director/Art Therapist, Seamark PROS, Goodwill Industries, Brooklyn, NY*
- Provided therapeutic services for adults with severe and persistent mental illness and dual diagnosis
 - Facilitated group and individual Art Therapy Sessions.
 - Developed and Coordinated Art Exhibitions, Open Mics and Events.
 - Authored group curriculum, progress notes, assessments and service plans
 - Maintained a caseload of 18-22 clients and 9-12 art therapy & skills building groups.
 - Supervised interns, office manger and staff members.

- 7/14-7/16 *Art Therapist Consultant, **Epilepsy Foundation of Metropolitan New York**, NYC*
- Facilitate seasonal Open Studio art therapy groups for adults with Epilepsy and comorbid conditions (intellectual and developmental disabilities).
 - Conduct individual intakes.
 - Aid clients in selecting artworks & creating artist statements for culminating exhibits.
 - **Co-Coordinated** and facilitated teen art therapy group, for teens with Epilepsy.
- 5/14-7/16 *Art Therapist, **Jewish Board of Family and Children Services, Horizons**, Brooklyn, NY*
- Facilitate individual, family & group art therapy sessions to survivors of Domestic Violence.
 - Author individual and group progress notes.
 - Conduct intakes and assessments.
 - Coordinate art exhibitions and outreach events.
- 3/15-6/15 *Art Therapist Per Diem, **Children's Museum of the Arts**, ARTogether Program, New York, NY*
- Facilitated family art therapy sessions for families navigating the NYC child welfare system.
 - Authored Progress Notes.
 - Authored Advocacy Letters.
- 11/11-7/14 *Art Therapist, **ACE Preschool**, Brooklyn, NY*
- Developed and facilitated group creative art therapy activities for preschool aged students with social needs (Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome & developmental delays).
 - Facilitated art therapy in-service presentations.
- 7/12-2/14 *Art Therapist, **Goddard Riverside Community Center, T.O.P.**, New York, NY*
- Facilitated Open Studio art therapy groups for members of psychosocial club, *The Other Place*.
 - Conducted group and individual art therapy sessions for adults with a history of mental illness, homelessness and/or chemical dependency.
 - Authored individual and group progress notes.
 - Planned and organized groups, events and trips.
- 11/11-06/12 *Art Therapist Temp, **Counseling in Schools, Flushing Family Center**, Brooklyn, NY*
- Facilitated art therapy group within family homeless shelter, for children grades 1st-7th.
 - Collaborated with teachers and administration.
 - Authored group progress notes.
- 05/10-4/11 *Art Therapist, **Maimonides Medical Center, Psychiatry**, Brooklyn, NY*
- Co-developed an outpatient Open Studio art therapy program.
 - Facilitated weekly Open Studio art therapy groups for adults with persistent mental illness.
- 12/10-2/11 *Activity Therapist Temp, **Maimonides Medical Center, Psychiatry**, Brooklyn, NY*
- Facilitated art and activity therapy groups for two adult inpatient psychiatry units.
 - Facilitated art therapy groups for outpatient psychiatry.
 - Conducted intake assessments.
 - Provided weekly charting, authored individual progress notes.
- 06/10-09/10 *Art Access Assistant/Art Therapist, Per Diem, **Queens Museum of Art**, Queens, NY*
- Co-led family art therapy groups for families affected by Autism.
 - Facilitated art therapy museum groups for special needs populations.

SELECT TEACHING & WORKSHOPS:

- 10/6/2019 *Presenter*, Art Exhibitions as a Therapeutic Intervention: Integration of Outsider Art, Community, Studio & Gallery, **Arts, Creativity and the Global Crisis Conference, Pratt Institute**, Brooklyn, NY
- 10/29/2017 *Presenter*, Art Exhibitions as a Therapeutic Intervention: Extending the Therapeutic Encounter from Studio to Gallery, **Water & Stone, a Creative Arts Therapy PLLC**, New York, NY
- 4/6/2017 *Facilitator*, Intro to Art Therapy, Mask Making and Exploring Identity Workshop, **University of Wisconsin-Marquette**, Marinette, WI
- 9/29/2017 *Presenter*, Artist Talk, Process and Product: The Art Therapist as Artist, **University of Central Florida**, Orlando, FL
- 10/22/2016 *Presenter*, Coloring as Mentalization Based Practice, The Art of Mentalizing: Communicating the Unknown, Conference, **Pratt Institute**, Brooklyn, NY
- 04/16-08/16 *Visiting Facilitator*, Mindfulness & Mandala Making, **Unorthodox**, New York, NY
- 4/16/2016 *Facilitator*, Why is Everyone Coloring? A Hands on Discussion about Art Therapy and Using Art for Wellness, **Blick Art Materials, Soho**, New York, NY
- 08/14-07/16 *Mindfulness-Based Teaching Artist*, OHBK Kids, **Open House Brooklyn**, Brooklyn, NY
- 08/29/2011 *Facilitator*, Interactive Installation Art Workshop, **The College of Liberal Arts, Patti & Rusty Rueff Gallery**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

CLINICAL INTERNSHIPS:

- 09/08-05/09 *Art Therapy Intern*, **Maimonides Medical Center, Psychiatry**, Brooklyn, NY
- Facilitated art therapy groups for inpatient and outpatient adult psychiatry.
 - Provided individual art therapy treatment.
 - Authored weekly progress notes and assessments.
- 09/07-06/08 *Art Therapy Intern/Art Studio Co-Teacher*, **The Blue School**, New York, NY
- Facilitated art groups and individual art therapy for children ages 3-4.
 - Facilitated environmental and sculptural group art projects (community garden).

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS & AWARDS:

- Present Chapter Delegate for the Board of the New York Art Therapy Association
- Present American Art Therapy Association
- 2010 Pratt Institute, Pratt Circle Award for Academic Excellence
- 2009-2010 Art Committee of the American Art Therapy Association