

AATA Featured Member

February 16, 2017



Kim Anderson, MSW, LCSW, ATR-BC, REAT, has had a diverse career leading her to art therapy. During her early work as a free-lance writer, photographer and graphic artist, she explored her interest in outsider art (i.e. expressions of oppression and liberation beyond conventional artistic borders or boundaries), a theme that remained consistent through all her artistic and clinical endeavors. After many years as a licensed clinical social worker, clinical supervisor, and educator, Anderson received her certification in art psychotherapy. Currently, she maintains a private practice in St. Louis, Missouri and is an adjunct professor and Program Coordinator of the Expressive Arts and Integrative Therapies Programs for Fontbonne University.

Art therapy is very personal to Anderson. She explains that “both my personal and professional histories contain moments in time when words did not suffice. I am an honored witness to the ‘authentic movement’ of my clients as they draw, dance, and revisit the drama of their lives.” She believes that art is “a natural leveling agent” when confronting social justice issues, and says that she would “very much like to see growing inclusivity within the profession, not only in terms of welcoming diversity of individuals but also of the paths taken to become an art therapist.”

She has presented at the AATA Annual Conference (2013) and the Illinois chapter’s conference (2013, 2016). She finds that “Attending regional and national conferences has allowed me to meet many remarkable colleagues and make lasting connections with professionals throughout the country.” Regarding the future of the field, she believes that “as educational and credentialing standards become increasingly clinically sound, recognition as a stand-alone profession seems to be the next logical step.”

*“Seasonal Goddess: Autumn.” By Kim Anderson.
Pen and ink..*

Artist Statement:

“Through art-making, Other becomes relevant. Through my practice as an expressive arts psychotherapist, I see clients – often assumed to be Other by family, peers, society – reconstitute themselves and so, too, become relevant.”

