

Curriculum Vitae

Michele Gunn,

M.A Hons. History of Art; 1970; Dip. Adult Education; 1974

Dip. Art Therapy; 1983

Dip. Community Care; 2000

Dip. Advanced Training Art Psychotherapy; 2000

State Registered Arts Therapist

Masters in Advanced Clinical Practice in Art Psychotherapy,

Goldsmiths' College, University of London, 2010

Personal

Date of Birth **25 -11- 1946**

Nationality **BRITISH**

Age **62** **Sex** **FEMALE**

Status **Married (1967)**

Children: **One son, age 40**

Summary:

Experience, interests and areas of expertise: Arts; Art Therapy; community arts and community care; adult mental health, mental health issues; education.

I have been qualified and registered as an art therapist since 1983 and State Registered since 1998.

My area of special interest is the “borderline” between art psychotherapy and the uses of “art as therapy”. My working practice involved managing a voluntary sector community-based service which provided both approaches, in the area of adult mental health.

My clinical work has focussed on working with people whose problems require long term support; these issues cover sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse and the effects of emotional and social deprivation.

I also have experience of providing services which involve the more public, and political, use of the arts, as a means of promoting the interests and views of people who are marginalised by disadvantage or disability.

The other important area of experience for me is work as a tutor, facilitator and training supervisor in education in art therapy and in mental health and community care issues.

I am now engaged in developing both my own art work and a private art psychotherapy and supervision practice, for which I am registered with the British Association of Art Therapists (B.A.A.T)

Higher Education

1965-1970 University of Edinburgh: History of Art, M.A. Hons; Grade 2.2

1973-4 University of Edinburgh: Diploma Adult Education; Grade: pass

Dissertation: “Culture and Amateurism” – a study of the concept and social meaning of the amateur artist in relation to the development of adult and public education.

1982-3 Hertfordshire College of Art and Design (now University of Hertfordshire)

Diploma: Art Therapy; grade: pass - Distinction

Dissertation study: Communication, image making and transference

1999-2000 University of Glasgow; Nuffield Foundation for Social Care Studies

Diploma in Community Care; Grade: pass

Dissertation study: “Art for Health’s Sake”; the development of, and the relationship between Art Therapy and community arts/arts in hospitals/arts and disability, in the context of the development of care in the community.

1999- 2000 (2001) University of London – Goldsmith’s College of Art, Dept. Art Psychotherapy: **Advanced Training Diploma in Art Psychotherapy: Pass**

Case Study: A woman in her fifties who had experienced abandonment in infancy by her mother and sexual abuse in adolescence. Work focussed on reparation and recovery of good internal objects.

2004 – to be completed Sept 2009 University of London – Goldsmith’s College of Art, Dept. Art Psychotherapy

M.A. Advanced Clinical Practice in Art Psychotherapy

Clinical experience and case study: Working with “chaotic” drug users in open drop-in sessions and one-to-one client work. Case study focussed on issues of short-term client contact, “micro-interactions”, play and transitional space.

Final Report research project: “**The Art Studio: its role and function in the development and practice of Art Therapy.**”

Employment

1986 – 2005 Edinburgh University Settlement – a local charity and social action organisation which specialises in the development and support of projects aimed at the relief of poverty, the development of the community and access to education for adults.

Post: Co-ordinator of EUS Mental Health Programme “Stepping Stones”

I managed a day centre for adults with mental health problems. The service focused on the use of the arts and education to promote positive mental health, to support personal growth and achievement and to facilitate for clients the development of richer and more meaningful lifestyles. The creative and performing arts formed the basis of a regular weekly programme; the arts therapies being used as a service to provide long term support for emotional recovery. The Programme was funded by Mental Health Specific Grant. (M.H.S.G.)

Special Projects related to EUS Mental Health Programme

Art Psychotherapy

2003 Pilot Open Group set up in collaboration with the **Salvation Army** in the **Pleasance Hostel** for the rehabilitation of homeless men with alcohol and drug problems.

2002 Outreach partnership project: Working in collaboration with **Edinburgh Health Trust** and **South East Sector Local Health Care Co-operative**, a 6 months closed Art

Therapy Group was piloted at **Ballenden House** Resource Centre for Mental Health. clients with severe and enduring mental health problems, referred from the Home Care Team

1993 Stepping Stones Art Therapy Service was set up as part of the Mental Health Programme, accepting referrals from NHS day resource centres, General Practitioners and other voluntary sector services. I was responsible for interviewing referrals, for allocating clients to a practitioner and for my own case-load. The service was provided by me and by training art therapists, supervised by me. **Since 1993**, Stepping Stones has provided an Art Therapy placement for trainees from **Queen Margaret University Masters course in Art Therapy**.

Education and Training work

2000 – present: Queen Margaret University College; School of Art Therapy, Post-Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy

Post: Visiting Lecturer; from the beginning of the **Diploma Course in 1992**, I was involved with the **Diploma Course**, the **Foundation** and the **Summer Schools** as a Visiting Lecturer.

I provided core course inputs, as Experiential Group (Inter-personal Learning Group) conductor and Supervisor.

2004: Post Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy; Conducting 2nd Year Supervision Seminar, Semester 1 & 2 weekly; 2 lecture input on: Community Care; Thinking and containment, theoretical work of Wilfred Bion.

Foundation Course: Conducting Experiential Group, Semester 1

Creative Therapies Summer School; Conducting experiential groups; acting as School link-person.

2003: Post Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy: Conducting 1st Year Supervision Seminar, weekly Semesters 1 & 2.

Foundation Course: Conducting Experiential Group, Semesters 1&2.

2002 Post Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy: Conducting 1st year Experiential Group Semesters 1&2

2001 Post Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy: Conducting 1st year Experiential Group Semesters 1&2

2000 Post Graduate Diploma in Art Therapy: Conducting 1st year Experiential Group, Semesters 1&2; conducting weekly 2nd year Supervision Seminar

1991-3: Scottish Art Therapy Summer School, Carberry Towers, Midlothian. with 3 other art therapists – **Caroline Case, Michael Hennessey and Simon Willoughby Booth** – publicity, administration and delivery of a 5-day residential Summer School in Art Therapy which attracted 25-30 students to each School, and was the first of its kind to be held in Scotland. Supported by funding from the **British Association of Art Therapists (B.A.A.T.)**

1992 - 4 University of Edinburgh, Department of Continuing Education
2 Introductory Courses of 20 weeks in Art Therapy, comprising experiential group-work and lectures on the theory of Art Therapy.

1988-89 Scottish Association for Mental Health Training Service; with **Bonnie-Dudley Edwards**, EUS Education Officer, **Carol Gortmans**, National Schizophrenia Fellowship, and **Nigel Henderson**, Richmond Fellowship; developed and delivered a series of 2-day courses in **Adult Education in Mental Health**.

Exhibitions

I have had responsibility for organising, fundraising, selecting and curating the following:

- 2004** “The Biggar Picture”
WASP Studios Patrioathall Gallery, Edinburgh May 27 –June 6; Gillespie Community Centre, Biggar, South Lanarkshire, June 28-July 3.
Landscape painting by members/service users of EUS Stepping Stones, with accompanying programme of art workshops.
With support of **South Lanarkshire Arts Access Service** and the **Robertson Trust**.
- 1989** “Emotion Pictures” **University of Edinburgh Chaplaincy Centre June 2-14:** Paintings by services users of Stepping Stones, exhibition advised and selected by **Andrew Brown**, then **Director of the 369 Gallery**. Part of the **Summer Arts Experience** festival organised by me for **Edinburgh University Settlement** with the support of **Edinburgh District Council Arts Outreach Team**. Funded by **Edinburgh District Council** and **Scottish Arts Council**
- 1986** **Women Live Artists Group Exhibitions: June 1986 Assembly Rooms, George Street Edinburgh; 1987 City Art Centre, Edinburgh**
- 1987** Work of women artists affiliated to Women Live Artists; the exhibitions were part of **the Edinburgh Spring Fling Community Arts Festival** Funded by **Edinburgh District Council** and **Scottish Arts Council**

Membership of Associations, Committees

2005-ongoing

Alternatives to Violence Project Training facilitator, member of Scottish Core Group. **Since 2008;** acting Co-ordinator for AVP Scotland.

2005- 2008 **Membership Secretary Scottish Arts Therapies Forum; 2008 – Chair Scottish Arts Therapies Forum**

2004 – ongoing **Regional representative for Edinburgh/Lothians Arts Therapists Group, Allied Health Professions Quality improvement Scotland NHS**

1999 – 2003 **Member of Central Edinburgh Preparative Meeting Overseer’s Committee, Religious Society of Friends;** Overseers is a pastoral care meeting to offer support to members of a Quaker Meeting, through the confidential contact of appointed Overseers

1997-99 **Edinburgh University Settlement Executive Committee;** EUS Executive is the governing body of EUS; I was elected to position of Staff Representative.

1996-99 **Castle Group Management Committee;** co-opted as a committee member to a user-managed day mental health service. As well as attending monthly business meetings, I also assisted with appointment interviews.

1989 – 91 **Scottish Association for Mental Health,** member of management committee as representative of an affiliated community organisation.

1986 – 91 **British Association of Art Therapists (B.A.A.T)**

Central Council

This is the national professional body for Art Therapists. I was elected as a **Member** in 1986 and subsequently appointed **Regional Co-ordinator** in 1989. My role as Regional Co-ordinator involved developing and maintaining contact with Regional Group Organisers throughout Britain, to enable Regional Groups to discuss and engage in the policy-making and development of BAAT's work.

1986-8 Regional Group Convenor, Lothian Region

Interests

Painting, landscape and life-drawing

Archaeology

Walking and sketching

Michele Gunn

July 2009