

Student #1

Franklin Reflection

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This article discusses the role of the socially engaged art therapist. The socially engaged art therapist worked in a community where folks were affected by the September 11th attacks in 2001. The goal of this community was to provide professional identity and give community engagement to those who were affected by the terrorist attacks. Franklin et al. (2007) quotes, “We all search for different forms of contact” (p.216). By this Franklin is stating that people approach situations differently, and that we all should support each other no matter what the circumstances may be. The NCAS was inspired by art therapists like Viktor Lowenfeld, Cane, and Pat Allen. All of these therapists touched on the importance of art education, as well as how different populations socially engage with one another in different environments. This article also discusses the importance of an art mentorship occupation versus an actual therapist. It is important we understand the difference between the two, as one focuses on the production of the client’s work only, while the other focuses on the mental health issues, the different experiences as well as the production of the visual art work. Franklin did a fantastic job of defining the difference between an actual therapists versus someone who is an art mentor. In order to understand the motive of socially engaged art therapy we must look at the difference between the two occupations.

Franklin, M. Rothaus, M.E., Schpok, K. (2007). Unity in diversity. In FF. Kaplan (Ed.)
Art Therapy and Social Action, (pp. 213-220). Jessica Kingsley Publishers.