

Special Issue

Psychology and Mental Health in Contemporary Art

Message from the Guest Editor

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?

Guest Editor

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About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Arts welcomes scholarly contributions that address fundamental issues in the arts, broadly conceived, from any meaningful perspective—theoretical, historical, interdisciplinary, and global. Submissions are expeditiously and rigorously reviewed by peers, in order to insure the highest scholarly standards. Because *Arts* is an online journal, articles reach their desired audiences more quickly and reliably than its print media peers. The future is digital, and *Arts* combines the stringent scholarly standards of traditional journals with the easy accessibility afforded by digitalization.

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