



Document Title: Art and Psychiatry Section Triennial Report (2023–2026)
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Date: July 2026

Triennial Report, the WPA Section for Art and Psychiatry (2023–2026)

The Section, chaired by Dr Jennifer Harrison (Australia), continues to promote art and psychiatry. With a growing membership of 74, a strong international committee was elected in 2025 to continue guidance into the next triennium.

Activities and educational materials are regularly posted on the Section's WPA website and, in 2024, a triannual newsletter to the membership was instigated. In 2025, the first Romanian digital museum of psychopathological art was formed and, in Italy, a similar project featuring the artwork of children is underway.

Ranging from single-authored to co-edited books, members have contributed many international publications. For example, the 2025 Routledge International Handbook of Art Therapy Practice, includes 50 chapters from 35 countries. Publications have also appeared regularly in peer-reviewed scientific journals. All are necessary for good policy development and evidence-based clinical practice.

A robust educational program is essential, and the Section has maintained active participation in WPA World Congresses held in Vienna (2023), Mexico City (2024), and Prague (2025). Members have contributed to numerous key symposia, including presentations on children's drawings, film analysis, ekphrasis, medical student teaching, the role of arts in improving health, stigma, the history of art and psychopathology, the writings of Goethe, and the work of significant institutions such as The Ghislain Museum (Belgium), The Cunningham Dax Collection (Australia), The Museum of the Image of the Unconscious (Brazil), and others.

Members have also hosted or presented at international, WPA-affiliated conferences, for example, 'Psychotherapy, creativity and the arts' (Rome 2024), 'Psychartica' (Jaipur 2025, with its own You Tube channel), the World Federation of Psychotherapy Conference (New York City 2026) and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College Conference (RANZCP, Melbourne 2026). A webinar on 'The relationship between art and health: what the evidence tells us' was hosted in 2025.

Scientific collaborations with other WPA Sections have included The Section for Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution, The Section for Literature, and The Section for Early Career Psychiatrists. The Section has also dialogued with local communities, bringing lived experience of art practice into conversation with mental health services through advocacy in the Pacific, USA, South America and Europe. For example, in India, teaching is conducted in Kannada using the state language of Karnataka.

The Section has strengthened partnerships with many international organizations including the World Federation of Psychotherapy, The Romanian Institute of Anthropology „Francisc I. Rainer”, the Australian New Zealand and Asian Creative Arts Therapy Association, RANZCP's Section for Philosophy and Humanities, the University of São Paulo, the World Association for Dynamic Psychiatry, and the University of Rome Sapienza. Such connections greatly enhance international collaborations and advocacy.

Looking ahead, the Section will continue to promote research, publications, exhibitions and education with plans to increase the visibility of art in mental health practice, and to support capacity building and evidence-based policy development. International conferences are planned, beginning with Vienna 2027. The WPA Section for Art and Psychiatry continues to play a leading role in advancing art and mental health internationally.