

BOOK REVIEW

Group Interactive Art Therapy. Diane Waller.
London & New York: Routledge, 1993.

This is a very readable book on the use of art therapy in groups. The author has split the reading into two parts. The first half of the book has to do with theory; the second part concerns several case studies. In several of the case studies, the author discusses the boundaries between the leader and group members and relates how these issues were worked out.

Many of the groups cited were multilingual and also consisted of professionals. These groups were considered experiential rather than therapeutic. More material on therapeutic, long-term group development would have been useful.

The author refers several times to her use of psychodrama to resolve group situations. She does not expand, however, on how she had used psychodrama or what the differences between the psychodrama groups and art-therapy groups were.

For a psychodramatist, a chapter on dealing with the use of art materials would have been useful. The art projects that are illustrated in the book would be appropriate for a workshop but would take more time than is usually available in a regular psychodrama session.

The author seems to have had some experience with the use of psychodrama. She recommends that any "conductor" of interactive art-therapy groups participate in several psychodrama sessions—"so that they may feel more secure about that aspect of their role which is concerned with keeping the group members 'in role'." She states this as she refers to groups that are producing many images but resist reflecting upon those images. She also discusses the high degree of drama that often occurs in an interactive art-therapy group and the need of the "conductor" to reinforce boundaries and encourage members to try a different mode of enactment.

DOLORES CLARK

DOLORES CLARK, who practices in Houston, Texas, works with adolescents and specializes in art, dance, and drama therapy.

J. L. Moreno's Continuing Influence

Gay Rights and Roleplaying

In *Healer of the Mind*, a book edited by Paul E. Johnson and published in 1972 by the Abingdon Press, J.L. Moreno contributed a chapter that he called "The Religion of God-Father." In a confessional mode, he admitted: "I have failed utterly in turning in the moment in the world's needs. The hope is gone from the faces of men. Our youth is bewildered. Many children are stopped from being born because of the worthlessness of birth and life. It is in the last calamities that my failure comes through. I must admit humbly that my megalomania is shattered."

Perhaps that disillusionment would be softened if he could have read in the *New York Times* of Wednesday, December 8, 1993, the following sentences, which were printed under the heading Gay Rights Law for School Advances in Massachusetts: "We did role playing where they (the students) would practice about what it was like to meet with a legislator—supportive and non-supportive." The report goes on to say: "We told them to be very forceful, never to write anyone off. We encouraged them to speak from the heart."

After a long life of struggling to convince others of the usefulness of his ideas, it is good to see the ramifications of their possibilities.

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