

Art Therapy Online: ATOL

Foundations, Experiences and Research

II LATIN AMERICAN ART THERAPY III MERCOSUR

The II Latin American Congress on Art Therapy and III of Mercosur in Santiago, Chile was held on the 20, 21 and 22 August 2009 and was supported by the Foundation Telefónica.



Fig 1 Conference Entrance

As the organizing team, we felt a great deal of satisfaction in the success of this international scholarly event. We are delighted not only by the response to the call for papers and the number of people in the audience, which was nearly 700, but also by the quality and variety of the works presented.

This event marks a milestone for the University of Chile and the Chilean Association of Art Therapy, who as organizers of the event achieved an important though partial fulfilment of the conference expectations and objectives: to present and give an update on the current progress

of art therapy, describing its recognition and professional development, both in Chile and Latin America.

This Congress is part of the effort of several Latin American art therapists, especially Brazilians and Argentineans, who for five years to date have promoted the exchange of professionals dedicated to Art Therapy.

2005 saw the implementation of the First Congress of Art Therapy in Mercosur, which met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Around 300 professionals attended all of whom were dedicated to a Latin American perspective on the social and therapeutic application of artistic practice. This event marked the beginning of a series of exchanges, which were intended to deepen, socialize and expand the benefits that artistic practice offers Chile in the different contexts of health, education and the community.

The second Latin American event was held in November 2007 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Here, 400 people gathered around the theme of knowledge and action in Art Therapy and its application in the context of our continent. One of the reflections made by the conference organizers was on the need to create a space for thinking about both the theoretical foundation and the practice of Art Therapy. It was decided at this conference that Chile should host the next Latin American Congress, with the central theme being a consideration of the deepening and development of art therapy as a field of specialization.

In this third Congress held in Santiago de Chile, we have had a wide international appeal. Art therapists attended from countries which included Chile, Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, United States, Spain, France and the United Kingdom among others. About 150 people submitted work from which 86 were selected to present papers, experimental presentations and workshops.

The Scientific Committee was composed of teachers linked to training Latin American Art Therapy in Chile and Latin America. Working together to pool approaches allowed us to share our broad view of art therapy. The committee was comprised of the following professionals: Ana Bonilla Reus of Mexico, Jose Miguel Calderon of Peru, Adriana Farias of Argentina; Ciornai Selma, Angela Phillipini, Otilia Rosangela de Souza and Ana Claudia Alfonso Valladares Brazil; Mimi Marinovic, Veronica Barraza, Daniel Malpartida, Susanne Bauer and Pamela Reyes of Chile .

The academic activities of the congress were attended by leading professional guests from Europe, North America and Latin America.

The first day witnessed the exchange of ideas between British art therapist and lecturer Dr. Andrea Gilroy and Héctor Fiorini, Argentine psychoanalyst. The work of Dr. Gilroy focused on scientific evidence and knowledge development in Art Therapy, emphasizing the importance of cultural context when considering the development of theory and practice in different countries.

Professor Fiorini focused his presentation on the importance of complexity and tertiary processes in the development of theory and practice of the arts therapies (Fig 2).

The panel of the day reflected together on the challenges faced by Art Therapy in the context of health care in Chile and Latin America. The importance of research in Art Therapy at the national level was emphasised and it was acknowledged that the development of art therapy theory and practice through research needed to be integrated with the local realities of the different Latin American countries.



Fig 2 Professor Fiorini



Fig 3 Pamela Reyes, University of Chile, Andy Gilroy, Goldsmiths, Hector Fiorini, Ruben Alvarado, School of Public Health, University of Chile.

The second day centered on Art Therapy and Education, delving into topics related to child-youth development in different socio-cultural contexts. French Professor Jean Pierre Klein focused his work on a multidimensional model of art therapy (Fig 3). Dr. Margaret Hills, a Scottish art therapist, focused her analysis on the discussion of transference elements in the work of Melanie Klein.



Fig 3 Jean Pierre Klein, INACAT, Paris.

The panel of the second day consisted of two experts in educational curricula: Abraham Magendzo and Grimaldina Araya, Daniela Gloger specialist in Art Therapy and Constanza Baeza, a psychologist specializing in resilience. Together they debated the benefits and challenges of providing Art Therapy in the Chilean educational context. In turn, they talked about the possibility of inserting the Art Therapy in non-formal community spaces as well as arts education programs to support educational development.

The third and final day was devoted to the presentation of experiences and theoretical reflections on the extensive field of Art Therapy practice in a community context. The work of Paulo Freire and Ignacio Martin Baró were analyzed by the speakers: Lynn Kapitan, United States, Selma Ciornai (Brazil) and Margaret Hills (Scotland), who have extensive experience in the field (Figs 5, 6, 7, 8). Each of these international guests in turn presented different models of intervention in the community context and which took account of the cultural realities with which they worked.



Fig 4 Constanza Baeza, CREAARTE Chile, Abraham Magendzo, Minister of Education, Grimaldina Araya, University of Chile, Daniela Gloger, University of Chile.



Fig 5 Lynne Kapitan, United States.

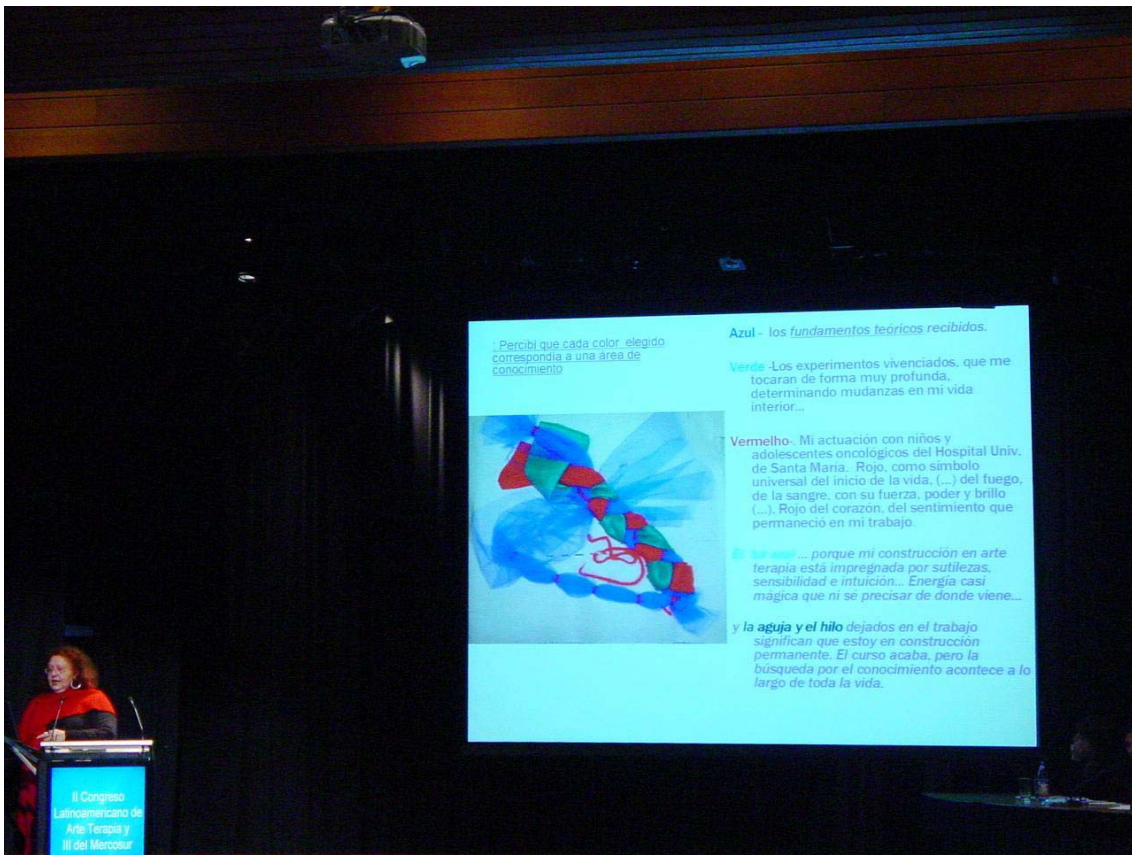


Fig 6 Selma Ciorni, Brazil.



Fig 7 Selma Ciorni, Brazil.



Fig 8 Margaret Hills, Scotland, United Kingdom.

In the course of the congress several experiential workshops took place covering specialized subjects that allowed for the implementation of different intervention models and techniques in art therapy practice (Fig 9).

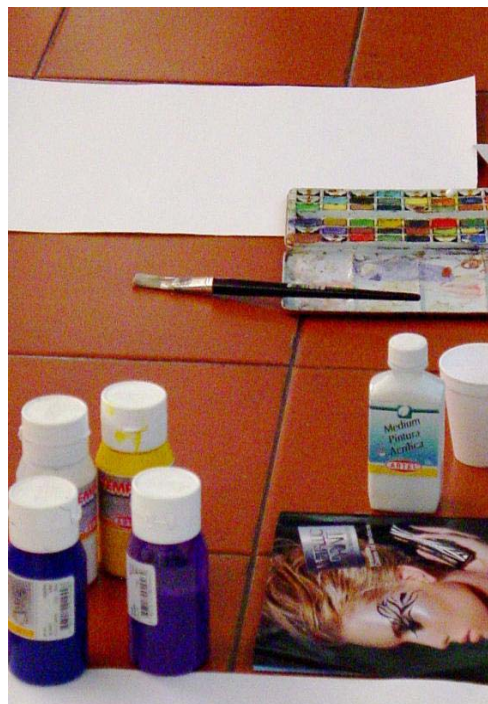


Fig 9 Materials, experiential workshops.

Themes from the Second Congress of Latin American Art Therapy were followed up in the central hall, which featured the display of posters selected from various Art Therapists, publicizing their experiences and different fields of intervention (Fig 10). In this same space converged exhibitions of paintings made by children from Telethon, Coanil, Red Cell, Crie and others, representing the work of different foundations dedicated to the rehabilitation of children and youth with special needs (Figs 11, 12). Along with this, the children's theatre company "Los Laureles" of Coanil, presented the play "The Locomotive", a presentation made especially for the Congress (Fig 13). Various performances took place, some spontaneously made by conference participants (Fig 14). There were also bookstalls selling sales of specialized books about the themes of the Congress.



Fig 10 Poster Exhibitions



Fig 11 Exhibition of paintings by children from Teletón.



Fig 12 Exhibition of paintings by children from Coail.

The congress was a living environment for exchange, discussion and mutual enrichment. This was highlighted by the closing ceremony marked by the spontaneity of dance and music along with the Youth Orchestra of Talagante and the Transhuman Spontaneous Theatre Company, who fostered an atmosphere of joy and creativity together (Figs 15 – 21).



Fig 13 Children's Theatre company "Los Laureles" de Coail performing "La Locomotora"



Fig 14 Performances



Fig 15 Talagante Youth Orchestra



Fig 16a Spontaneous Transhuman Theatre Company and audience.



Fig 16b Spontaneous Transhuman Theatre Company and audience.



Fig 17 Andy Gilroy, United Kingdom, Héctor Fiorini, Argentina.



Fig 18 Mimi Marinovic, Chile. Bobby Stoll, USA, Margaret Hills, Scotland.
Héctor Fiorini, Argentina



Fig 19 International guests at the II Congress Latin American Congress of Art Therapy.



Fig 20 Eduardo Torres, ACAT-Chile. Pamela Reyes, Universidad de Chile. Selma Ciornai, Brazil. Otilia Souza, Brazil. Adriana Farías, Argentina. Ruth Guntfreund, El Salvador.



Fig 21 Organizing Committee

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Pamela Reyes H., Congress Scientific Committee Coordinator, Art Therapy Coordinator
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