

About the Editors

Each of us has a story. When **Lisa Kay** was a little girl, she took delight in playing in her grandmother's button box, telling stories and creating with found objects. This is why she is so invested in narrative storytelling through art that encourages personal reflection, self-knowledge, and healing. A board-certified art therapist, Dr. Kay has continued this practice in her scholarly publications, in her dedication to art therapy and art education, in her selection of focus for her Fulbright, and in her own artwork.

As an award-winning scholar, educator, therapist, and exhibiting artist, Dr. Kay's creative voice is manifested in and enhanced by the integration of these identities. Her book *Therapeutic Approaches in Art Education* brings together ideas and resources from her art therapy practice and art education research. She hopes you find value in this collection—offering you and your co-creatives a way to restore other's lives by making the world a better place.

Beverley Johns is currently a learning and behavior consultant, having worked in the public schools with students with significant behavioral and emotional disabilities as well as students with learning disabilities for over 30 years. She was the administrator and founder of an Alternative School, and also was responsible for staff development for the Four Rivers Special Education District. She served as a Professional Fellow at MacMurray College until its closing.

She is the author or co-author of over 27 nonfiction books, including the textbook on learning disabilities; five fiction books; and numerous articles.

She is the current president of the Learning Disabilities Association of Illinois, she served on the board of the Learning

Disabilities Association of America, and she is a past president of Delta Kappa Gamma, Illinois State Organization. She received the 2000 Outstanding Leadership Award from the Council for Exceptional Children. She received the Division for the Arts Lifetime Achievement Award. She is also a past president of the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders.

Donalyn Heise is an accomplished artist, educator, author, and researcher with over 30 years of experience in K–12 schools, higher education, and community settings. She began painting on porcelain as a child and discovered firsthand how the creative process can enhance well-being. This early experience sparked a lifelong interest in how art can bridge history, culture, science, and beauty to create functional works of art.

Heise believes that art is a powerful tool for meaning-making and strengthening resilience, particularly for youth who have experienced trauma. She has led numerous intergenerational art programs in shelters, hospitals, senior centers, and community spaces, helping individuals of all ages tap into their creative potential. Her research includes more than 25 peer-reviewed journal articles, nine book chapters, and four books, and she has delivered over 100 presentations globally.

A recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the NAEA-VSA-CEC Beverly Levett-Gerber Special Needs Lifetime Achievement Award, the NAEA Viktor Lowenfeld Award, and the University of Texas at Austin's Department of Art and Art History Teaching Excellence Award, Heise advocates for art as a path to personal growth, encouraging others to enjoy the creative journey, emphasizing process over product to restore well-being.