

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF ART THERAPISTS
24-27 White Lion Street, London N1 9PD
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**SURVIVING CLOSENESS:
MENTALISATION AND ART THERAPY WITH PEOPLE WITH SEVERELY DAMAGED
ATTACHMENTS**

Convenors: (Neil Springham and Val Huet)

Thursday, 10th and Friday, 11th June – 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Art Therapists are called upon to offer therapeutic services to people with severely damaged attachments. These include people with personality disorders, addictions, acute and long-term mental health problems and learning disabilities. This is a challenging issue, as clients often fear the intimacy implied in the therapeutic relationship.

In this workshop we will focus on the impact of narcissism and the role of shame as the 'sleeper in psychopathology' (Block-Lewis, 1985). They both have a great impact on clients' ability to tolerate closeness and we will reflect on how they resonate with our own feelings of failure when clients do not engage or drop out. The issue of 'Surviving Closeness' is one shared by both therapist and client. We will also discuss how the response to Shame Dynamics is Humiliated Fury, and how this is often encountered in organisational dynamics. 'Mentalisation' (Bateman & Fonagy) has emerged as one of the most effective ways to engage such clients, and we will visit basic principles of mentalisation and how to adapt this to Art Therapy Practice.

We will illustrate this talk with case examples from our Art Therapy practice, and explore with participants ways in which practice may be further adapted to meet these clients' needs.



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Name (Block capitals please)			
Address			
e-mail			
Daytime telephone number		Evening telephone number	

Fee: £300 (Employer funded) £220 (FT employed self funded)
£180 (PT employed – 2.5 days or less self-funded)

Please detach this form and send it with your cheque made payable to '**The British Association of Art Therapists**' to the above address.