

Professional Reviews: # 1. . .

Betsy Lazarus, ATR-BC
President of New York Art Therapy Association
January 5, 2005

To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is intended to serve as a recommendation for the unique and effective neuro-art therapy program innovated by Dr. Maureen Del Giacco. As a professional art therapist for ten years and current president of the New York Art Therapy Association, I am proud to endorse Dr. Del Giacco's approach. I can also say without reservation that this art therapy program truly does help enhance cognition for a variety of populations. In my own practice, I rely on its usefulness to increase the level of awareness, alertness, and response for older adults affected by degenerative dementing illnesses. These people are well served by this improvement in their quality of life. Prior to learning how to implement Dr. Del Giacco's program, I despaired that my knowledge and years of art therapy practice could not help our elders.

It has also been my privilege to know Dr. Del Giacco personally. She is a dedicated professional who has devoted her life's work to the development of the neuro-art therapy approach and educating others in this program. Dr. Del Giacco has been a source of inspiration and support as I utilize her art therapy methods in my own practice with groups and individuals. Her tireless work is of critical clinical importance to those whose cognition has been damaged or compromised either by circumstance or disease. It is my opinion that she has rightfully earned a place among art therapy pioneers.

Sincerely,

Betsy Lazarus, ATR-BC

Review # 2. . .

Schwarz Health Care Services Inc.

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have known Dr. Del Giacco for about 15 years and first became acquainted with her work when I was asked by the New York State Health Department in the early 1990's to evaluate the clinical integrity of her work. I traveled to her clinic, spent considerable time interviewing her, observing techniques, reading notes and later in the forthcoming years, observing outcomes to her clinical interventions.

I have an international certification in Sensory Integration as an Occupational Therapist so I was in a unique position to evaluate the plausibility and feasibility of her clinical endeavors with individuals who suffered traumatic brain injury or related brain disorders. I truly marveled at her appropriate and judicious use of neurophysiology and emerging neuropsychological principles while carefully identifying what was known and what was not. Her intended clinical outcomes were modest in light of the effects that she achieving and her steadfastness in the scientific method of isolating clinical variables, collecting data and modifying visual and tactile interventions based on objective analysis of data in addition to clinical observation was, and still is, second to none.

I have administered over dozens of rehabilitation programs, supervised dozens of music, art, dance and creative art therapists in traumatic brain injury, psychology and developmental disabilities. Without hesitation, Dr. Del Giacco meets and exceeds standards of those professionals that I have both directly supervised. In addition, she has furthered the field of art therapy, in my opinion, by broadening its ability to work with individuals with greater impairment and by clearly using neuroscience and technology to maximize outcomes without overstating possibilities. I have read her book, articles and work with great interest and great respect. In my capacity of Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, I have overseen credentialing of many graduate students. I could think of no one more capable or deserving than Dr. Del Giacco.

Diane Schwarz, MEd, OTR, C-SII

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Review # 3. . .

Ada Dickinson M.A., L.M.H.C., A.T.R., CDATA
Fort Wayne, Indiana,

RE: Dr. Maureen Del Giacco, PhD, CDATA

I have recently come to know Dr. Del Giacco. I am a practicing art therapist in private practice in Ft. Wayne, Indiana for the past 16 years. In September of 2004 I enrolled in Dr. Del Giacco's distance class in Neuro Art Therapy.

Dr. Del Giacco has developed a clear and insightful program for art therapist and health care professionals who are in need of understanding how to plan and implement an art therapy program for people suffering with a brain injury or brain dysfunction.

Dr. Del Giacco has been a passionate advocate for this population as well as the value of the use of art therapy as the intervention of choice to bring about change with many people in this population. Her teaching, publications, creativity, compassion for this population and her students has been inspirational for all those who have been touched by her knowledge, help and experience.

Dr. Del Giacco is flexible and creative and extremely knowledgeable which are all essential qualities to have when working with people who need guidance and encouragement. Furthermore, she has always carried out her responsibilities professionally and thoroughly. While in her class I could always count on Dr. Del Giacco to put things in perspective, but more importantly she could come to the essence of your concern and point in the direction needed to gain further insight.

Within moments of meeting Dr. Del Giacco it becomes very apparent that she is passionate about her clients, students and ongoing research on the topic of brain damage and how the arts can work to bring about changes in the brain.

Dr. Del Giacco has demonstrated a strong sense of personal integrity and honesty as well as a strong work ethic. Furthermore, her relationship with her students has always suggested that she has the very human, personal characteristics necessary to be an excellent health care professional representing the state of New York.

Sincerely,

Ada Dickinson, M.A., L.M.H.C., A.T.R., CDAT