

SUSAN JOY RIPPBERGER, PhD.

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Profile

Susan is an HCPC registered Art Psychotherapist in private practice with a specialty in Nature-Based Art Psychotherapy. She offers creative and reflective therapeutic support rooted in connection, curiosity and care. Her therapeutic approach is collaborative, strengths-based, and deeply respectful of each person's unique path. Through artmaking and/or engaging with art in nature, she supports clients in exploring their experiences, fostering wellbeing, and moving toward meaningful change. She has worked with children, teens and adults. Currently based in Scotland she offers inclusive, affirming art psychotherapy in person and online for English and Spanish speaking clients.

Professional Affiliations

Health and Care Professions Council, Registration: AS0193350

Member, British Association of Art Therapists (BAAT)

Member, American Art Therapist Association (AATA)

Member, International Expressive Arts Therapy Association (IEATA)

Education

MSc Art Psychotherapy, Queen Margaret University, UK

MFA New Genres, San Francisco Art Institute, USA

PhD International Systems of Education and Policy Studies, University of Pittsburgh, USA

BA Sociology, University of California, USA

Languages

English (native speaker)

Spanish (fluent speaking, reading, writing)

Art Exhibitions and Community Curating

Susan's artistic practice explores concepts of care, community building, and organic structures. Her sculptures, prints, installations, and performances have been exhibited in galleries across the USA, Mexico, and Scotland. She has worked on teams curating shows in San Francisco, New York City and Edinburgh, UK.

See susanjoyrippberger.com for a full list of shows, curating projects and publications.

Teaching Experience

Susan's work in education includes formal and informal education (spanning elementary, college and university teaching, all in bilingual settings). She has worked as a freelance art instructor and mentor with community organizations in New York city, and has taught both undergraduate and graduate courses. Other experience includes:

- Instructor, Heald College, Concord, California. Taught undergraduate courses for non-traditional college students in art history, humanities, research and composition. Led classroom and faculty workshops on media literacy, research, and best practices for serving immigrant students.
- Professor in Educational Leadership for University of Texas at El Paso. Taught classes in arts based qualitative research, ethnography, diversity and inclusion, ethnography, and leadership. Cultivated grants, led arts education evaluations, conducted research in the U.S. and Mexico.

- Bilingual Elementary Classroom Teacher and Specialist for the Migrant Program, Coachella Valley School District and Santa Maria Elementary School District in California. Developed arts-based curriculum for migrant students.

Publications

Her published writing includes juried journal articles, book chapters, book reviews and a book on culture education and patriotism on the U.S./Mexican border. Her writing is based in ethnography, diversity, equity and culture. (See susanjoyrippberger.com for details).

Volunteering

The Brae Riding for the Disabled, caring for horses, guiding riders

Wellbeing Works, providing Art Therapy for participants

Dundee Ceramics Workshop, supporting participants from local wellbeing centres