MASTER OF ARTS
ART THERAPY

MODE
Full-Time

INTAKE
August

DURATION
2 years (4 semesters)
As an art therapist, you purposefully facilitate an art-making process to promote and create self-expression, reflection, understanding and change with people and/or communities who encounter a range of stress, trauma, physical, mental or societal challenges and experiences. Art therapy is a form of psychotherapy that helps people to effect change and growth through the use of art materials in a supported and safe environment. For those having difficulty expressing their thoughts and feelings verbally, art therapy is non-intrusive and can tap into the rich non-verbal aspects of communication and creativity.

Art therapists develop the necessary skills and training to effectively work with a variety of populations throughout the life cycle. They work within various medical, institutional, educational, and rehabilitative settings that may include learning, development, medical conditions, social work, marginalised groups, crisis and trauma within communities, ageing and eldercare to name a few. The practice of art therapy ranges from studio-based to clinical approaches, depending on the art therapist’s level of expertise, practice and working environment. Art therapists remain sensitive to cultural awareness, difference and diversity and adhere to international ethics and best practices.

The MA Art Therapy Programme at LASALLE is a two-year, four semester full-time training programme spanning a range of psychotherapeutic concepts, theories and practices. The experiential model of the programme places an emphasis on acquiring critical knowledge and understanding of the philosophy of the modality itself. You will undergo a substantial period of clinical practice through supervised clinical placements. Clinical work is further explored and discussed through structured group and individual supervision at the College.

As a Masters student, you will be encouraged to attain an autonomous and reflective stance in your learning, development, and assessment in collaboration with tutors. This is a vital process in developing an approach to your professional practice as a confident, competent and ethical art therapist that will be based upon your ability to be analytical, critical, objective and self-reflective about your work.

Although personal therapy is required in semesters 2-4, it is recommended throughout the duration of the training. You are to arrange and pay for your own personal therapy as this is not included with tuition.

The MA Art Therapy Programme at LASALLE is the first of its kind to be developed and implemented in Southeast Asia. The programme is breaking new ground in relation to the varied and distinctive social, cultural and spiritual frameworks within which it is being nurtured. The Southeast Asian context is considered throughout the training and candidates are encouraged to research and work in a range of settings both local and if appropriate, international.

A blend of Eastern and Western approaches are considered and candidates are encouraged to develop a reflective and contemporary philosophical and practical stance. Although there may be several similarities in terms of the human experience, it is acknowledged that there are unique cultural considerations and local and/or region specific implications in terms of how mental health services are defined, perceived and implemented.

Self-reflexivity, mindfulness and a contemplative approach are practices wherein you may further draw upon to further embrace and/or expand your understanding of an Asian context. It is acknowledged that cultural difference and diversity are at the heart of current art therapy debate and discourse both locally and around the globe.
Psychodynamic Processes and Pictorial Analysis

This module will explore contemporary psychodynamic theories including object relations and inter-subjective theories to name a few, with in-depth analysis. This module aims to introduce you to the dynamics of human development across the lifespan looking at the psychology of child, adolescent, adults and geriatric development. Possible topics to be discussed include attachment styles and the role of the therapist. Possible topics to be discussed include attachment styles and the role of the therapist in facilitating healing and growth.

Clinical Placement 1

The programme is formally approved by the Australian Association for Arts Therapists (AUARTS) and is accredited by the Arts Therapists Association (ANZACATA). Graduates are eligible to apply for professional registration (AThR) with ANZACATA. It may be possible to apply for professional membership of other international art therapy organisations and registration with the graduate is the graduate’s responsibility to be familiar with the appropriate professional credential and other membership organisations in terms of requirements and procedures for professional practice, membership, credential, and so forth. It is important to work within a country outside of Singapore. You are encouraged to continue your learning and growth in your chosen field and to serve your community through volunteer work.

Clinical Placement 2

This module introduces you to the dynamics of human development across the lifespan looking at the psychology of child, adolescent, adult and geriatric development. Possible topics to be discussed include the role of the therapist in facilitating healing and growth.

Group Therapy 2

You will incorporate your theoretical and practical learning to work with individual and groups. You are encouraged to join the Clinical Placement Programme in the second semester and choose a field of study that is of interest to you. This programme will be offered to students who are interested in developing skills in the area of art therapy. You will be required to satisfy the programme of your fitness to work and undertake training as required. You will be required to sign a Risk Assessment Statement prior to starting your training. Group Therapy 2 offers you the opportunity to develop your skills and refine your practice. You will engage with patients/clients and develop your ability to facilitate art therapy in the placement setting. You will also contribute to the development of your therapeutic practice by engaging in research and developing critical arguments and methods of assessment.

Research Methods in Creative Arts

This module introduces you to the dynamics of human development across the lifespan looking at the psychology of child, adolescent, adult and geriatric development. Possible topics to be discussed include attachment styles and the role of the therapist in facilitating healing and growth.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

There are three clinical placement modules in the programme. For each module, you must complete at least 272 hours of clinical placement. Placement is supervised, and you will be assigned a Clinical Placement Coordinator. You are required to complete at least one clinical placement module. You will have the opportunity to work with clients and groups in the placement setting. You will work under supervision of an experienced art therapist.

Clinical Placement 1

In this module, you will engage with clients and groups within your clinical setting. Emphasis is placed on the therapeutic relationship and your ability to function as an unobtrusive member of a multidisciplinary team.

Clinical Placement 3

In this module, you will engage in research on an aspect of art therapy of particular interest to you. Practitioners and researchers within art therapy will also provide you with differing perspectives to assist you in the development and delivery of your research project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The programme is formally approved by the Australian Association for Arts Therapists (AUARTS) and is accredited by the Arts Therapists Association (ANZACATA). Graduates are eligible to apply for professional registration (AThR) with ANZACATA. It may be possible to apply for professional membership of other international art therapy organisations and registration with the graduate is the graduate’s responsibility to be familiar with the appropriate professional credential and other membership organisations in terms of requirements and procedures for professional practice, membership, credential, and so forth.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE THERAPIST TRAINING EXPERIENCE

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

There are three clinical placement modules in the programme. For each module, you must complete at least 272 hours of clinical placement. Placement is supervised, and you will be assigned a Clinical Placement Coordinator. You are required to complete at least one clinical placement module. You will have the opportunity to work with clients and groups in the placement setting. You will work under supervision of an experienced art therapist.

Clinical Placement 1

In this module, you will engage with clients and groups within your clinical setting. Emphasis is placed on the therapeutic relationship and your ability to function as an unobtrusive member of a multidisciplinary team.

Clinical Placement 3

In this module, you will engage in research on an aspect of art therapy of particular interest to you. Practitioners and researchers within art therapy will also provide you with differing perspectives to assist you in the development and delivery of your research project.

GROUP THERAPY 2

You will incorporate your theoretical and practical learning to work with individual and groups. You are encouraged to join the Clinical Placement Programme in the second semester and choose a field of study that is of interest to you. This programme will be offered to students who are interested in developing skills in the area of art therapy. You will be required to satisfy the programme of your fitness to work and undertake training as required. You will be required to sign a Risk Assessment Statement prior to starting your training. Group Therapy 2 offers you the opportunity to develop your skills and refine your practice. You will engage with patients/clients and develop your ability to facilitate art therapy in the placement setting. You will also contribute to the development of your therapeutic practice by engaging in research and developing critical arguments and methods of assessment.

Research Methods in Creative Arts

This module introduces you to the dynamics of human development across the lifespan looking at the psychology of child, adolescent, adult and geriatric development. Possible topics to be discussed include attachment styles and the role of the therapist in facilitating healing and growth.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

There are three clinical placement modules in the programme. For each module, you must complete at least 272 hours of clinical placement. Placement is supervised, and you will be assigned a Clinical Placement Coordinator. You are required to complete at least one clinical placement module. You will have the opportunity to work with clients and groups in the placement setting. You will work under supervision of an experienced art therapist.

Clinical Placement 1

In this module, you will engage with clients and groups within your clinical setting. Emphasis is placed on the therapeutic relationship and your ability to function as an unobtrusive member of a multidisciplinary team.

Clinical Placement 3

In this module, you will engage in research on an aspect of art therapy of particular interest to you. Practitioners and researchers within art therapy will also provide you with differing perspectives to assist you in the development and delivery of your research project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The programme is formally approved by the Australian Association for Arts Therapists (AUARTS) and is accredited by the Arts Therapists Association (ANZACATA). Graduates are eligible to apply for professional registration (AThR) with ANZACATA. It may be possible to apply for professional membership of other international art therapy organisations and registration with the graduate is the graduate’s responsibility to be familiar with the appropriate professional credential and other membership organisations in terms of requirements and procedures for professional practice, membership, credential, and so forth.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE THERAPIST TRAINING EXPERIENCE

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

There are three clinical placement modules in the programme. For each module, you must complete at least 272 hours of clinical placement. Placement is supervised, and you will be assigned a Clinical Placement Coordinator. You are required to complete at least one clinical placement module. You will have the opportunity to work with clients and groups in the placement setting. You will work under supervision of an experienced art therapist.

Clinical Placement 1

In this module, you will engage with clients and groups within your clinical setting. Emphasis is placed on the therapeutic relationship and your ability to function as an unobtrusive member of a multidisciplinary team.

Clinical Placement 3

In this module, you will engage in research on an aspect of art therapy of particular interest to you. Practitioners and researchers within art therapy will also provide you with differing perspectives to assist you in the development and delivery of your research project.

GROUP THERAPY 2

You will incorporate your theoretical and practical learning to work with individual and groups. You are encouraged to join the Clinical Placement Programme in the second semester and choose a field of study that is of interest to you. This programme will be offered to students who are interested in developing skills in the area of art therapy. You will be required to satisfy the programme of your fitness to work and undertake training as required. You will be required to sign a Risk Assessment Statement prior to starting your training. Group Therapy 2 offers you the opportunity to develop your skills and refine your practice. You will engage with patients/clients and develop your ability to facilitate art therapy in the placement setting. You will also contribute to the development of your therapeutic practice by engaging in research and developing critical arguments and methods of assessment.

Research Methods in Creative Arts

This module introduces you to the dynamics of human development across the lifespan looking at the psychology of child, adolescent, adult and geriatric development. Possible topics to be discussed include attachment styles and the role of the therapist in facilitating healing and growth.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

There are three clinical placement modules in the programme. For each module, you must complete at least 272 hours of clinical placement. Placement is supervised, and you will be assigned a Clinical Placement Coordinator. You are required to complete at least one clinical placement module. You will have the opportunity to work with clients and groups in the placement setting. You will work under supervision of an experienced art therapist.

Clinical Placement 1

In this module, you will engage with clients and groups within your clinical setting. Emphasis is placed on the therapeutic relationship and your ability to function as an unobtrusive member of a multidisciplinary team.

Clinical Placement 3

In this module, you will engage in research on an aspect of art therapy of particular interest to you. Practitioners and researchers within art therapy will also provide you with differing perspectives to assist you in the development and delivery of your research project.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The programme is formally approved by the Australian Association for Arts Therapists (AUARTS) and is accredited by the Arts Therapists Association (ANZACATA). Graduates are eligible to apply for professional registration (AThR) with ANZACATA. It may be possible to apply for professional membership of other international art therapy organisations and registration with the graduate is the graduate’s responsibility to be familiar with the appropriate professional credential and other membership organisations in terms of requirements and procedures for professional practice, membership, credential, and so forth.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE THERAPIST TRAINING EXPERIENCE

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

There are three clinical placement modules in the programme. For each module, you must complete at least 272 hours of clinical placement. Placement is supervised, and you will be assigned a Clinical Placement Coordinator. You are required to complete at least one clinical placement module. You will have the opportunity to work with clients and groups in the placement setting. You will work under supervision of an experienced art therapist.

Clinical Placement 1

In this module, you will engage with clients and groups within your clinical setting. Emphasis is placed on the therapeutic relationship and your ability to function as an unobtrusive member of a multidisciplinary team.

Clinical Placement 3

In this module, you will engage in research on an aspect of art therapy of particular interest to you. Practitioners and researchers within art therapy will also provide you with differing perspectives to assist you in the development and delivery of your research project.
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

LASALLE has a long tradition of practice-led research in art and design. The College aims to establish a significant role in Singapore for practice-led research in visual, performing and literary arts, and aspires to add the distinctive viewpoint of Singapore to research into artistic practice in the 21st century.

The Research Methods in Creative Arts module is a common module which all students are required to undertake. You will have the opportunity to interact with another in the first term (seven weeks), to network with peers in other MA programmes and foster a stronger community of research practice that enhances your respective discipline of study as well as within the College.

You will be introduced to relevant professional methods of research and creation which may include profiles of and/or dialogue with creative professionals, critical/theoretical discourse, action research, visual object analysis, textual analysis, case studies, historical and ethnographic research, interviews, life stories autobiographies, etc. You will also be introduced to research practices such as literature reviews, process-based discovery, bibliographical searches, quantitative & qualitative methods, citations and the construction of research questions.

Postgraduate students are constantly exposed to first-hand experience in current practices of research and creation, leading to the acquiring powerful knowledge and a wide range of skills by the time you graduate. You will have opportunities to develop expertise in accordance with your research interests.

CAREER PATHS

Art Therapist, Counsellor, Educator, Social Worker, Artist, Researcher, Writer

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor’s degree in visual arts or psychology; or an equivalent level of training in a relevant medical, social or human sciences field.
- Relevant experience in a rehabilitative setting in the form of paid or unpaid voluntary work.
- Demonstrable ability to discuss and reflect on the nature and sensitivity of confidential case material, professional and ethical best practices and the potential vulnerability of their clientele. Placement settings require a mandatory background security check for students.
- A willingness to undergo weekly personal therapy for the entire duration of the programme.
- Relevant experience in a rehabilitative setting in the form of paid or unpaid voluntary work.
- The ability to discuss and reflect on the nature and sensitivity of confidential case material, professional and ethical best practices and the potential vulnerability of their clientele. Placement settings require a mandatory background security check for students.
- A willingness to undergo weekly personal therapy for the entirety of the programme.

THE FACULTY

Ronald P.M.H. Lay
MA, AThR, ATR-BC, EdD (candidate), Programme Leader

- MA (Art Therapy), Concordia University, Canada
- BA (Fine Arts), University of Guelph, Canada
- BA (Psychology), Wilfred Laurier University, Canada

Grounded in a psychoanalytic psychotherapy paradigm, Ronald focuses on the impact of experiential learning within postgraduate programmes. He has many years of experience working full-time as a forensic art therapist in California. As a forensic art therapist, Ronald has been involved in preparing postgraduate students to become competent, ethical, trained, and approved art therapists. This is especially critical in regions of the world where art therapy is emerging as a viable, respected and9 important discipline.

The California State Legislature awarded him the prestigious Sustained Superior Accomplishment Award, a two-year honour in his respective school, recognizing his art therapy and contributions to the facility. Ronald develops a successful art therapy internship at the Dorset Institute, providing clinical supervision and hosting several leadership positions including Acting Chief of Rehabilitation Therapy Services and Chair of the Professional Rehabilitation Therapy Practice Group. He was an active member on several local and state-wide committees that addressed assessment, development, budgets, documentation, quality assurance, peer supervision, treatment intervention and planning as well as continuing professional development.

Ronald is a seasoned and experienced art therapist. He maintains professional memberships and armchairs nationally and internationally, including the Art Therapy Association (Singapore), the Australian, New Zealand and Asian Creative Arts Therapy Association, the American Art Therapy Association; and the Art Therapy Credentials Board. His membership is in the California Art Therapy Association through membership on committees and reviews, as well as the Northern California Art Therapy Association. He is a committee member of the Clinical Art Therapy Training Evaluating, providing workshops and presentations at peer-juried conferences and journals.

Ronald is an accomplished and award-winning artist. His artistic inquiry is to explore the visual and psychological interplay between these, and the mixed media he explores serves as his tool of expression. Ronald has graduated his personal projects to several art auctions to raise funds, not amounting to several million dollars, for the benefit of several non-profit hospitals, breast cancer, heart and stroke, HIV/AIDS and community arts projects. In addition, he has been a paid artist for several local charities. He also volunteers for several national and international causes including 15 years of experience working directly with groups and individuals in Australia and Thailand. He has worked with over 100 organizations in long-term and short settings, including several years at a rehab facility in his home country of Thailand.

His years of experience working directly with groups and individuals in Australia and Thailand. He has worked with over 100 organizations in long-term and short settings, including several years at a rehab facility in his home country of Thailand.

Emilia Saftan
MA, AThR, Lecturer

- MA, AThR, Lecturer
- Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Supervision, The University of Derby, UK
- MA Art Therapy, Open University, UK
- BA Psychology & Humanities, Monash University, Australia
- Certificate of Teaching in Higher Education, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore

Emilia is a practicing art therapist and educator with specialist training in clinical supervision. She has experience working towards mental health and social sciences and integrates physiology with psychology for an encompassing approach in individual and group development.

Since 2007, she has been in partnership with educational institutions, voluntary welfare organizations, government agencies and NGOs within Southeast Asia, working with persons of all ages in situational and developmental crises within different communities. As a clinician, Emilia is also informed by the science of yoga and meditation and has a background in Chinese Medicine. Emilia is a Registered Yoga Instructor (RYT 200 hrs) and is currently on a journey towards meditation, creativity, wellbeing, compassion and sensitivity, and to bring joy to the mind, body, and spirit.

Daniel Wong
MA, AThR, Lecturer

- MA Art Therapy, Western Sydney University, Australia
- MA Art Administration, University of New South Wales, Australia
- BA Fine Art, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, USA

Daniel is a practicing art therapist, trainer facilitator and clinical supervisor, with over 15 years of experience working directly with groups and individuals in Australia and Thailand. He has worked with over 100 organizations in long-term and short settings, including several years at a rehab facility in his home country of Thailand. A large public mental health facility in greater western Sydney. Daniel is also the editor for the Australian, New Zealand and Asian Creative Arts Therapy Association (ANZACATA). A trained artist, Daniel works primarily with discarded household material like cardboard, yarn and fabric, fashioning them into miniature sculptures as he finds the unpredictability of these found items inviting.
ABOUT LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Asia’s leading tertiary institution in contemporary arts and design education and practice.

LASALLE College of the Arts offers 30 diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in fine arts, design communication, interior design, product design, film, animation, fashion, dance, music, theatre, arts management, arts pedagogy and practice, art therapy, Asian art histories and creative writing.

LASALLE provides a nurturing, interdisciplinary learning environment to inspire the next generation of forward-looking, globally engaged artists, designers and leaders of creative industries.

Its faculty is led by a community of award-winning artists, designers, educators and researchers, and their practice-led research sets LASALLE apart as an international centre of excellence.

Founded in 1984 by the late De La Salle Brother Joseph McNally – a visionary artist and educator – LASALLE is a non-profit private educational institution. The College receives tuition grant support from Singapore’s Ministry of Education. Its degree programmes are validated by Goldsmiths, University of London.

CONTACT US

For programme consultation or to schedule a guided campus tour, contact our Admissions Office.

LASALLE College of the Arts
1 McNally Street
Singapore 187940

☎ +65 6496 5111
✉ admissions@lasalle.edu.sg
🌐 www.lasalle.edu.sg

Monday – Friday, 9:30am – 5:30pm
Closed on weekends and Public Holidays

CONNECT WITH US

facebook: lasalle.sg
twitter: @lasallesg
instagram: @lasallesingapore
youtube: lasallesingapore

Partner Institution:

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Cert No.: EDU-1-1102
Validity: 01/10/2019 - 30/09/2023

LASALLE College of the Arts is registered with the Committee for Private Education (CPE). The Committee for Private Education is part of SkillsFuture Singapore (SSG).

Registration No.: 199702955W
Validity: 25/03/2019 - 24/03/2023