

AATA Featured Member

June 22, 2016



Mariah Gormas, a proud student member of the AATA, will obtain her MA in Art Therapy in August of 2016 from Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT. She appreciates the scholarship award opportunities that AATA provides for its student and New Professional members. Throughout her career as a graduate student Mariah has worked with numerous populations including homeless women, at-risk children and adolescents, individuals with eating disorders and LGBTQ adolescents. Mariah has experience leading anti-racism trainings, working with homeless mothers recovering from substance abuse in New York and New Jersey, and participating in trauma-informed training in South Africa and Connecticut. Additionally, she is a regular LGBTQ panelist for the US Health Justice Course at Yale School of Medicine.

As a queer woman practicing feminist art therapy, Mariah is passionate about subverting systems of oppression through the art therapy profession. She believes that art therapy has a unique ability to engage with historical and cultural trauma. Her current research revolves around raising critical awareness of systemic oppression in clinical settings. She hopes to continue to promote positive change, foster healing and support diversity through art therapy practice and research.

"Spirit Animal Totem" by Mariah Gormas.

Artist's Statement: "While on my journey to discover the treasures of the world, learn the wisdom of the elders and understand the meanings of truth and love, I have met many friends. First I encountered Bear, who led me into The Great Void and fed me her placenta. I learned to look inside. I then swam deep into the ocean where I met Sea Turtle who introduced me to my ancestors. They showed me where I came from and that I was never really alone. I crawled out of the ocean and Wolf picked me up and taught me how to be one of the pack. When I lost my way, Dog found me and said, "Follow me." He led me into Hades, to my Shadow Side. I took her hand and the three of us walked out together. Hummingbird met us on the other side and showed me how to use my wings. She taught me how to BE. Today, as I continue on my journey, I walk with two friends - Flamingo and Snake. I will soon share with you what they share with me. Mahalo."

