



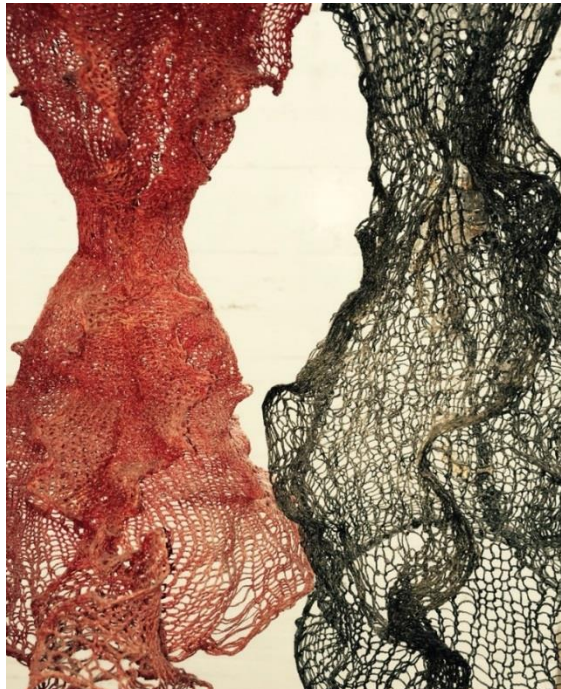
AATA Featured Member for Dec. 9, 2015

Amy K. Backos, Ph.D., ATR-BC

Amy K. Backos, Ph.D., ATR-BC, is the current Chair of the Graduate Art Therapy Psychology Department at Notre Dame de Namur University, where she teaches Master's and Doctoral level courses that focus on research and community engagement on the local and international levels. For three years, Amy has served as a member of AATA's Research Committee (RC). She notes, "I rely on AATA to define the research needs of our profession and the research that comes from our department attempts to address the needs of the profession as outlined in the Delphi Study (Kaiser & Deaver, 2013). Serving on the RC has enhanced my ability to teach master's and doctoral students about research."



Having grown up in a creative household with two parents as educators, art therapy seemed to be an obvious and natural career choice. Later, Amy would continue on to graduate with her MA in art therapy from Ursuline College and her PhD in clinical psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. Much of her work in art therapy has been with people who have experienced trauma. For example, while working at the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center she co-created a group with Phyllis Harris called *Girls Kick Butt* for teenage girls who had experienced sexual abuse. They used feminist principles within the group and Amy found the results to be deeply moving. The empowerment gained from witnessing such work inspired Amy and Phyllis to continue using art in social justice.



"Fiber Mobile I and II" by Amy Backos