

Featured Member

AATA

April 6, 2017



Susan Harder, MS, works both as a freelance artist and as an art therapist. She practices in a short-term inpatient facility for children, adolescents, adults, and seniors at Avera Behavioral Health, Sioux Falls, SD. After graduating with a BA in Art and Spanish from Bethel College, Susan continued to earn her MS in Art Therapy from Mount Mary University, Milwaukee, WI in 2015. Susan describes the AATA as “my main source for current art therapy information and education.” She especially values access to the Journal and to the annual conference as components of her AATA membership. She explains, “I had never felt more connected to the AATA community than when I attended my first conference in Minneapolis in 2015. It was inspiring to be surrounded by so many art therapists and hear presentations by leaders in the field who authored so many of the texts that I had read in graduate school.”

She believes that “creativity has the ability to access a new and vibrant way of being in the world” and helps her clients discover this language within themselves. She continues, “Some patients that I meet have never had the opportunity to use this creative language to uniquely connect with their thoughts, emotions, memories, and other people.” In the future, Susan hopes that “art therapy, and the arts in general, continue to earn the recognition that they deserve for changing people’s lives for the better.”



She is currently pursuing her ATR, LAC, and LPC licenses. For more about Susan and to see her artwork, check out her [website](#).

*“Reconvene” by Susan Harder.
2017. Willow branches.*

Artist’s Statement: “As a descendent of Swiss-German immigrants, weaving is in my heritage. I have officially become a 5th generation weaver. Although I have been an artist for my entire life, weaving is a brand new endeavor that I am excited to embrace. With the help of Indiana artisan, Viki Graber (Goshen, Indiana), I am learning how my artistic self is reconnecting to my rural roots and my home community of Freeman, SD through the art of willow baskets.”

