

FOR EMILY BUDIK

Statement from your faculty/mentor(s) describing their mentorship of the research

In the fall of 2021, Dr. Gantt contacted me specifically about her FEATS research work and a need for assistance. As she approaches her 80s, it is crucial that her research legacy continues. With the massive collections, Dr. Gantt recognizes that she cannot complete this work alone. Since her research affiliation is no longer active through previous WVU entities, Dr. Gantt has asked that I partner with her in this archival project in order to actively complete this next phase of her prolific research work. As a representative of Dr. Gantt and her project, I am currently the Primary Investigator for the research archive project, “The Formal Elements Art Therapy Scale (FEATS) Digital Archival Project” (IRB Protocol # 2202523582) and supervise 5 undergraduate-level students who are assisting with the project.

Over the last year, my role has been to secure grant funding (RSA grant #2779) for technology and equipment, relocate Dr. Gantt’s archive to an on-campus location, and to recruit undergraduate students to assist with the labeling, data entry, and photographing of client artwork for the archive. My mentorship and professional expertise have been a key to getting this project off the ground but the student workers are the ones who are keeping the project moving. In my role as the Primary Investigator, I’ve been able to work directly with the students to answer questions about diagnoses, artwork, and art therapy aspects associated with specific client works.

While all the students have been active in various project aspects along the way, Emily has been exceptionally engaged and has shown impressive initiative in this work. I’ve been working with her more directly through one-on-one mentorship over the last year and have been continually impressed with her attention to detail and accuracy, organizational skills, and her knowledge of data entry and the Excel software. Her involvement in this project has been instrumental in the progress made over the last year.



Annie McFarland, Ph.D., ATR-BC (she/her/hers)
Assistant Professor | Art Therapy + Therapeutic Arts
Art Therapy Program Coordinator
e: anne.mcfarland@mail.wvu.edu