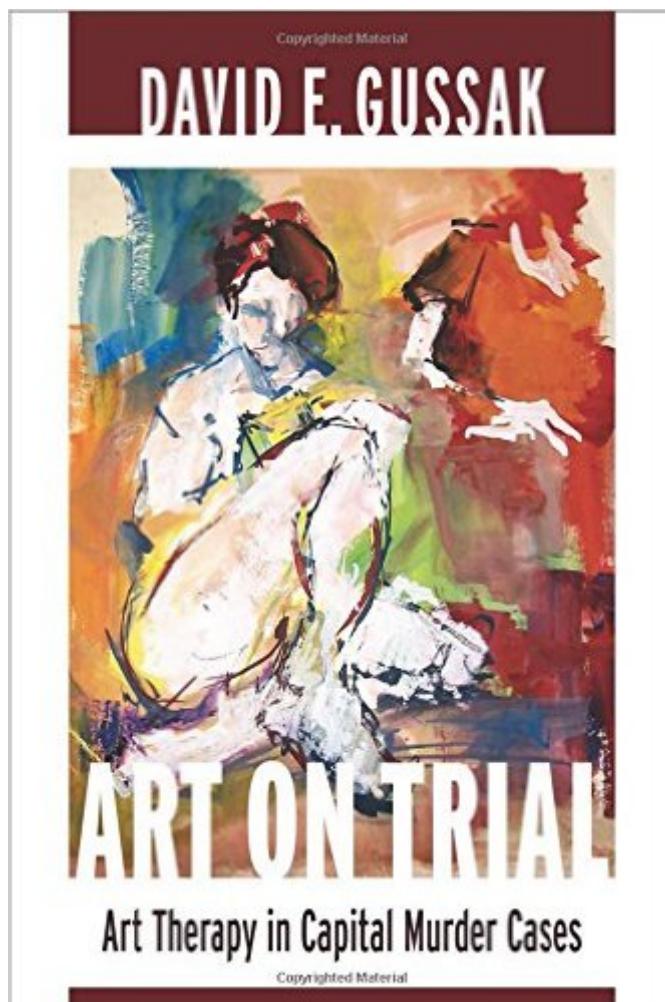


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Art On Trial: Art Therapy In Capital Murder Cases



Synopsis

A man kidnaps his two children, murders one, and attempts to kill the other. The prosecution seeks the death penalty, while the defense employs an unusual strategy to avoid the sentence. The defendant's attorneys turn to more than 100 examples of his artwork, created over many years, to determine whether he was mentally ill at the time he committed the crimes. Detailing an outstanding example of the use of forensic art therapy in a capital murder case, David Gussak, an art therapist contracted by the defense to analyze the images that were to be presented as evidence, recounts his findings and his testimony in court, as well as the future implications of his work for criminal proceedings. Gussak describes the role of the art therapist as an expert witness in a murder case, the way to use art as evidence, and the conclusions and assessments that professionals can draw from a defendant's artworks. He examines the effectiveness of expert testimony as communicated by the prosecution, defense, and court, and weighs the moral, ethical, and legal consequences of relying on such evidence. For professionals and general readers, this gripping volume presents a convincing account of the ability of art to reflect a damaged and dangerous psyche. A leading text on an emerging field, *Art on Trial* demonstrates the practical applications of an innovative approach to clinical assessment and treatment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I must admit that I do judge a book by its cover, and I was truly interested when I saw the cover of *Art on Trial*; but once I began to read David Gussak's account about the use of art therapy in a

specific capital murder case, I couldn't put it down! It is a concise, easy to read book that even a non-art therapist can learn from and discover what art can tell us in a new way. The artworks included in the book help to add insight into the criminal mind, while demonstrating why the justice system needs expert advice. A well written and fascinating book.

This is a wonderful book that provides information on using art therapists in the criminal justice arena. With the use of real experiences, it is a very interesting book that you won't want to put down.

Art on trial provides a unique insight into the potential diverse application of art therapy in varying domains. It exemplifies how a subject's mental status can be manifested externally in visual form and describes the methods employed by Art Therapists to assess and diagnose these conditions. Anyone wishing to delve more deeply into the art of examining the visual extension of the mind's innermost obscurities should begin by reading this fascinating account of art on trial.

I have not read this yet but I am definitely looking forward to what David Gussak has to say. I went to one of his seminars and he was excellent. He thoroughly researches his topics.

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