

**Between Hours/Interdisciplinary Dialogues**  
Toronto Psychoanalytic Society, presents the

## 20th ANNUAL DAY IN APPLIED PSYCHOANALYSIS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2015

9AM TO 4PM

George Ignatief Theatre, University of Toronto, 15 Devonshire Place, Toronto, Ontario



### Precarious Beauty: The Aesthetic Conflict in Art and Psychoanalysis

An inspiring day of presentations by artists in dialogue with analysts

**Jane McAdam Freud**   **Meg Harris Williams**   **Joseph Fernando**   **Louis Brunet**

This year's annual event welcomes acclaimed British Artists with psychoanalytic ancestry from Freud to the post Kleinians—**Jane McAdam Freud** and **Meg Harris Williams**—to reflect with us, through the medium of their respective work in sculpture and life drawings, on the impact of the ambiguity of the aesthetic object in driving curiosity and the development of a thinking/feeling mind. Meg Harris Williams will expound on the Meltzerian concept of the aesthetic conflict as a developmental construct originating in the emotional tension of the infant's attraction to and fear of the *present* mother and re-experienced through life in coming into contact with a 'new idea,' as it applies to both the artistic and psychoanalytic process. Both artists will engage in dialogue with Toronto analysts of Freudian and Kleinian persuasions for an integrative discussion on this aesthetic dimension of psychic life.

**Jane McAdam Freud**, MA (RCA), FRBS, Fellow of the Royal British Sculpture Society, is an acclaimed British sculptor and multi-disciplinary artist who makes 2D prints and drawings, 3D sculpture and medals, and 4D films. The recipient of many international awards, Jane McAdam Freud has exhibited internationally and her works are represented in national collections worldwide. She is Associate Lecturer at Central St Martins: University of the Arts, London and teaches at Morley College, London. Great granddaughter of Sigmund Freud and daughter of Lucian Freud, Jane McAdam Freud's work focuses on the meeting of Art and Psychoanalysis:

### Ellipse illusion – From the crescent to the whole of the moon



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*“Obliquely referencing object relations and the aesthetic conflict as far as they touch on dimensionality, I will trace my fascination with the dimensions of the object through the trajectory of my sculpture.*

*I remember my father's concern with the surface of his paintings appearing 'real' rather than 'representations' of reality. I contrast his predilection for high relief, textured surfaces on otherwise flat canvas with my own works with sculptural relief. By interrogating both the making and reflective process, I contemplate my sculpture from the two-sided medals (3-us and them, above) to the panoptic type installations where all parts can be seen simultaneously.*

*Formal explorations into the relief form started with the Picasso medal (5) in 1980. During later research into 'Forms of Relief - the post modern medal', I recognised the dialogue between my psychological and making process. A sculptural conversation became sentient: the illusory, painted surface versus 'in the round' form, leading to my focus on the in-between which I call two-and-a-half: dimensions or relief. Rather than being driven by the content (image) of the sculpture, I focused on its dimensionality. By dimensionality, I mean: is it flat, in relief, or in the round?*

*I conclude with my recent works, which are concerned with the mother/child relationship and its manifestation through my sculpture (6). For this introspection I will, for the first time in public, look at the impact of that relationship on the aesthetics of my works: from the fecund female in all its fleshy form to the fantasy female of the grand narrative - the real (3D) versus the illusory (2D): the 2D(flat) and 3D(round) as co-opted devices for describing the presence and absence of the female figure/the mother figure.”*



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Picasso Medal



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Dark Side

**Joseph Fernando**, MD, Training and Supervising Analyst, Toronto Institute of Psychoanalysis, will engage in dialogue with Jane McAdam Freud on the themes inherent in her work as they pertain to the aesthetic conflict.

Dr. Fernando has published papers on guilt, narcissism, the character of the exception. His recent book, *The Processes of Defense*, won the 2010 Gradiva prize for a book on psychoanalytic theory. He is at present working on two projects: a more detailed exploration of aspects of the zero process and trauma, and a book on psychoanalysis and human evolution.

**Meg Harris Williams**, visual artist and a literary critic, writes about the relation between psychoanalysis, aesthetics and literature. She has published widely on interdisciplinary lines, including *The Apprehension of Beauty* (with Donald Meltzer), *The Chamber of Maiden Thought*, *The Vale of Soulmaking*, *The Aesthetic Development: The Poetic Spirit of Psychoanalysis*, and *Bion's Dream*. She is chair of Borderlands Artists Consortium in the UK and lectures internationally and at the Tavistock Clinic, London. She will present on:

#### **The Aesthetic Conflict in artistic process and in psychoanalysis as an art form**

*"I shall be using the artistic genre of lifedrawing as my main illustration. For many years I have based much of my own artwork on lifedrawing, and more recently, when running lifedrawing workshops for psychotherapists, I have found these can offer a helpful model for considering the emotional impact involved in close observation. Many parallels emerge with the aesthetic conflict related to the psychoanalytic transference, with its analogous attempt to create symbols of an emotional experience."*



**Louis Brunet**, Ph.D., Psychoanalyst and Psychologist, President of the Canadian Psychoanalytic Society, will discuss the paper and dialogue with Meg Harris Williams on the topic of the Aesthetic Conflict as it pertains to development and psychoanalytic process.

Prof. Brunet is Professor and ex-Director of the Psychology Department, Université du Québec à Montréal. He is the author of 7 books, 26 chapters, and 96 papers, and has published widely on individual and mass violence, archaic psychic organizations, projective identification, and the containing function. He is also invited professor at Université Lumière Lyon and Université Paris 5.

## Learning Objectives

Participants will

- Become familiar with the construct of the aesthetic conflict as a developmental driving force originating in infancy
- Understand its role in facilitating the development of a thinking/feeling mind
- Learn about the function of the aesthetic conflict in artistic and psychoanalytic process
- Appreciate the ongoing impact of this inner conflict in furthering symbolic development
- Obtain a clearer understanding of the creative role of artistic expression in development
- Obtain an understanding of the link between the object relational experience of the artist and its symbolic representation via the construct of dimensionality in sculpture
- Appreciate the emotional impact involved in close observation in both artistic process and the transference in the clinical situation

## Program

- 8:30 Registration  
9:00 Welcome and Introductions: Vivienne Pasieka, Keith Haartman  
9:10 **Jane McAdam Freud: From the crescent to the whole of the moon**  
10:10 Coffee Break  
10:30 **Joseph Fernando** will respond and converse with Jane Mc Adam Freud  
11:15 Open Discussion with audience  
  
12:00 Lunch ~ a light lunch will be served in the Buttery  
  
1:00 **Meg Harris Williams: The Aesthetic Conflict in artistic process and in psychoanalysis as an art form**  
2:00 Short break  
2:10 **Louis Brunet** will respond to the paper and dialogue with Meg Harris Williams  
3:00 Open Panel and Audience Discussion  
3:45 Closing Remarks

### Organizing Committee

Vivienne Pasieka, PhD Chair, Keith Haartman, PhD Co-Chair, Gavril Hercz, MD, John Iddiols, EdD, Sarb Mann, MSW, Jon Novick, MD, Mandisa nKungu, FRCPC.

## Registration

On-line: [torontopsychoanalysis.com](http://torontopsychoanalysis.com)

Or email: [info@torontopsychoanalysis.com](mailto:info@torontopsychoanalysis.com)

*This event is an accredited group learning activity (section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, approved by the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA). The specific opinions and content of this event are not necessarily those of the CPA, and are the responsibility of the organizer(s) alone.*

Early Registration (before August 1, 2015) \$150

At the door (or after August 1, 2015) \$165

Full-Time Students \$75 (Proof of 2015/16 status in universities/colleges required) early bird, or \$85 after August 1.

Mental-health trainees and retired seniors are eligible for a 25% fee reduction (Proof of 2015/16 status required)

Refunds must be requested in writing 2 weeks prior to the beginning of the event, after which fees cannot be returned. A handling fee of \$30 will be retained.

Image on cover: by Meg Harris Williams