Designing and Implementing Arts Programs for People with Dementia (II)

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Possibilities

• Onsite/Offsite
• Organizations/Families
• Art-looking/Art-making
• One time/multiple times
Art-Making Program

• Individuals with early-stage dementia + family or professional caregiver
• Materials-based
• Examples: images and reproductions for discussion
• Collaborative or independent art-making
• 2-hour sessions
• Multi-week course
• Culminating exhibition
4-week Program
Participant Artwork
Culminating Exhibition
Evaluation: Programmatic Aspects

• Consecutive weeks
• Importance of small group size
• Quality and variety of materials
• Initial slide introduction
• Support and responsiveness of the educators
• Bringing artwork home extends the experience
• Sharing work with each other
Evaluation: Participant Experience

• Increase in self-worth and mood
• Discovering/awakening a creative part of yourself
• Absorption in creative process
Engagement with Art Allows for:

• Participation in a meaningful activity and opportunity for personal growth
• A forum for exploration and exchange of ideas without relying on short-term memory
• Opportunity to share personal experiences and access long-term memories
• New insight into others’ ideas and interests
• A means to make connections between individual experience and the world at large
• A social setting that allows connection to one’s peers
• A respite, both physically and psychologically
• Opportunity for creative expression
• Participation in a normalizing experience
Key Considerations

- Goals
- Participants
- Cost and budget
- Spaces and time
- Full-time and part-time staff directing, coordinating, and assisting with the program
- Educators, artists, staff leading programs
- Training
- Sustainability
Resources

Meet Me: Making Art Accessible to People with Dementia

www.moma.org/meetme