

Putnam Community Services – an outpatient clinic of Hudson River Psychiatric Center, located in Brewster, NY (Putnam County) –

is proudly presenting:

abstracting friday

The name of our art group - *abstracting friday* - tells a big part of the story: We meet on Fridays and do (mostly) abstract art. The group is open for consumers of our clinic and social center, as well as members of the Mental Health Association in Putnam County. Group members rarely have any background in art. The purpose of the group is to provide a socially engaging opportunity for individuals to create abstract art that is attractive and intriguing.

Why abstract? (1) Well, why not? (2) Because abstract is flexible and forgiving; it does not tell us if we are right or wrong, good or bad. Abstract art allows us to dare and to do things more freely.

Each group meeting centers around a theme, which provides the inspiration for the project at hand. For example, a past theme called “Salad Dressing” reflected the method of freely pouring paint out of squeezable plastic bottles just like you would do with a bottle of salad dressing. Although the concepts and materials are prepared in advance, the execution and outcome are never predictable.

While some art creations are done individually, many of our works are created as a group project. Group members work together on sizeable formats, as large as 4' x 8', over a few Fridays per project. We have found that our diversity (as artists, as people) is what makes these projects so unique and beautiful. We install art in different areas of the clinic, as well as outside in back of our building. The installations are not all conventional. Some of them may be hanging from the ceiling, rolling down the hallway, or even traveling on wheels.

For our mixed media art creations we use “everything and anything.” In addition to conventional, low-cost art supplies, we have used bottles, cans, mirrors, wood shims, plastic utensils, metal locks, styrofoam cups, magazines, old shoes and more. We use a lot of recycled material, and we sometimes recycle the art itself. Some of our art supplies are donated by our group members and other members of our community.

Our art is not labeled, as we want to let it speak for itself. Our art is not for sale because we love having it as part of our environment. We love to have visitors tour the clinic and view the art.

Thank you for your interest.