

Editorial

This issue presents the results of the 32nd conference of the Association for Anthropology and Medicine (AGEM), which took place from May 24 to 26, 2019 at the University of Münster under the title “Aesthetics of Healing: Working with the Senses in Therapeutic Contexts.” The thematic focus was on the sensory formation and perception of therapeutic measures as well as the aesthetic communication of these experiences as an interaction of all actors involved in the healing process. The conference was international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral, which the contributions to this issue reflect with their different perspectives, approaches, and topics. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Department of Social Anthropology and the International Office of the University of Münster for their cooperation and support.

The contribution in the forum of this issue was written independently of the conference, but sup-

plements the thematic focus by focusing on the fuzziness of the boundaries between art, religion, and medicine as a classical topic of medical anthropology. Through biographical interviews, the contribution reflects on the lives of Horst and Donata, a German-Italian couple from Cologne, who were thrown off track by the incursion of the invisible and intangible when Donata began painting pictures at the behest of the dead. The text offers insight into the resulting struggle for sovereignty through an ongoing process of individual and social negotiation of normality in different cultures. The paper highlights the precarious status of the boundaries between illness and mediumism, worldview and healing, and suggests reading the text as an art-historical commentary on the reprinted images.

Janina Kehr, Helmar Kurz, Mirko Uhlig,
Ehler Voss