

*Southwest Branch of The International Dyslexia Association*

2005 Annual Branch Conference

*The Creative Brain: Gifted, Talented, and Dyslexic*

February 11-12, 2005

Albuquerque Convention Center

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Speaker: **Michael Gerrish**  
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Saturday Session 1 10:30 to 12:00

Topic: Using art in the classroom to teach all subjects  
(Geared for the reg/sped teacher not an art teacher).

Title: **Why Art? Using Art to Connect and Engage Students in  
a Variety of Learning Environments**

Description: Art is more than a scholastic afterthought; it is for many the avenue to success in life. Art offers a platform for engaging learning different students in a hands-on setting, and a synergistic opportunity to integrate multiple subjects.

Saturday Session 2 1:30 to 3:00

Topic: Using found and common materials to create Visual Art  
in a Book format (Student centered; adults welcome).

Title: **The Artist Book, Uncover to Covered: Connecting  
Imagery, Text, Thoughts and Emotions**

Description: Workshop participants will follow Michael's lead and create artist books from supplied materials. What is an Artist Book? Come to the workshop and find out! Participants will incorporate poetry, prose and whimsy in a media designed to reveal inner thoughts and interests to readers and author/artists alike. Learn a bit about Art and Design, too. No art or poetry experience is necessary! If you can listen, fold, doodle, paste & cut, you'll make a book, there is no but!

Publications: For free resources and additional information visit <http://whyart.com>.

**Speaker Biosketch:** Michael Gerrish is an innovative educator with expertise in teaching Visual Arts and Technology to individuals with divergent learning styles. A mixed media artist whose work is found in public and private collections throughout the eastern US, Michael promotes incorporating the arts into all subjects through traditional media and digital technology. He lives in Troy, NY with his wife Carol E. Gerrish, PCC, a professional coach whose practice is centered on affirming life balance.

"I am convinced that Art is of paramount importance in every educational experience! Art must be more than a hands-on activity subordinate to other learning, for when it is integrated with other content areas the synergy of connected learning paths promotes a deeper understanding of culture, period and discipline."

Michael Gerrish