

Motivational interviewing only gets a couple of passing references. The chapter on methadone gives interesting insight into the US healthcare system but, like other contributions, is more a polemic than a review. Only the dialectic behaviour therapy chapter deals in any depth with aspects of co-occurring addiction and psychiatric disorder.

For many practitioners in substance misuse and addiction psychiatry, the interface with local cultural influences is part of the fascination of the discipline. Successful international publications in addiction utilise international differences to enhance learning. This book, however, is too parochial and I could not recommend it.

**Peter Rice** Tayside Alcohol Problems Service, Sunnyside Royal Hospital, Montrose DD10 9JP, UK. Email: peter.rice@nhs.net

doi: 10.1192/bjp.bp.110.089789



### Addiction and Art

Edited by Patricia B. Santora, Margaret L. Dowell & Jack E. Henningfield. Johns Hopkins University Press. 2010. US\$29.95 (hb). 184pp. ISBN: 9780801894817

As the 'High Society' exhibition at the Wellcome Collection in London has shown, there is widespread interest in the influence of alcohol and drugs on our culture. If one examines Mike Jay's lavishly illustrated book of the exhibition,<sup>1</sup> it can be seen that drug use has a multifaceted relationship with the worlds of art and literature. Much of the artwork is celebratory and indicative of the initial lure of mind-altering substances. If Jay's book presents us with the intoxication of a Saturday night, then *Addiction and Art* gives us the hangover of a Sunday morning, multiplied many times over by the enslavement of addiction.

The 61 stark images included in this book were selected by an expert panel from a much larger pool of work, to give insight into the desperation wrought by addictive disorders and to increase public understanding of these disorders. A further purpose was to give hope for recovery, as many of the artists are themselves recovering from addiction. Some of these images appear to be a warning to the sober self as to where a return to drug use might lead. The hopeful images contrast poignantly with those commemorating people who have died through illness, overdose or suicide. I found the painting entitled *The Addiction Savior*, by a Baltimore funeral director, particularly striking as a response to the epidemic of premature death wrought by tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

Each image is complemented by explanatory text from the artist on an opposing page. These pieces then are deeply personal and give insight into a variety of individual hells. In comparison

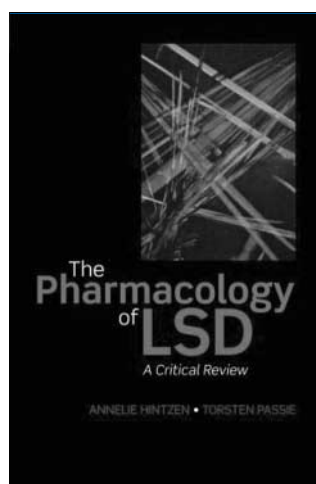
with, say, William Hogarth's *Gin Lane* or George Cruikshank's *The Worship of Bacchus*, there appears to be a lack of awareness of the social causes of the problems that are depicted. This book is very much influenced by the prevailing disease-model ideology of addictions in the USA, based on an emphasis on neurobiology at the expense of psychological and social understandings of addiction. I found myself doubting the claim put forward by the editors that science and art are reconciled here, with the art giving us the wide variety of personal experience that lies beneath the seemingly uniform surface of addictive disorders.

Ultimately, this is a worthwhile book, not only for the many striking images it presents, but also for showing how an involvement with art might for some prove therapeutic. The book does not stand alone and the project from which it is taken ([www.addictionandart.org](http://www.addictionandart.org)) appears to continue to thrive.

1 Jay, M. *High Society: Mind-Altering Drugs in History and Culture*. Thames and Hudson, 2010.

**Iain Smith** Gartnavel Royal Hospital, Kershaw Unit, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH, UK. Email: iain.smith@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

doi: 10.1192/bjp.bp.111.093245



### The Pharmacology of LSD: A Critical Review

By Annelie Hintzen and Torsten Passie. Oxford University Press/Beckley Foundation Press. 2010. £29.95 (pb). 240pp. ISBN: 9780199589821

Many psychiatrists today are not aware of the role lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) played in the profession in the mid 1950s. Heralded as 'the next big thing in psychiatry', this fascinating drug looked set to transform the management of 'neurotic' patients. But in the wake of the subsequent drug revolution LSD was banned and largely consigned to museums' shelves for the past 40 years. Until now.

Psychedelic research is enjoying a worldwide renaissance – with a major UK conference in April 2011 – and this book provides an impressive trawl through the database of over a 1000 pharmacological studies conducted on LSD in the past 60 years since the drug's discovery by Albert Hofmann. The book's approach to evidence for the experienced academic researcher is exhaustive, while also remaining accessible to psychiatrists and the lay enthusiast.

LSD is remarkable not least for stimulating the imagination of so many varied people. What other subject, ask the authors, spans the academic fields of biology, medicine, cultural anthropology, theology, botany, psychology and chemistry? Not to mention the drug's influence in religion, music and art.

The authors illustrate the immense potency of LSD, its pharmacodynamics and what is known of its beguiling