

hurt my ears. I had thought that only humans could speak, so I was surprised that the violets were using words to communicate. They were all like human faces looking at me. I was so terrified that my legs began shaking' (p. 62).

She later experienced palinopsia, visual distortions and transformations, and intensely vivid visual hallucinations.

In this autobiography, Kusama writes lyrically, deploying poetic language and images, with utmost honesty and frankness about her life, the motivating force of her art, and explaining as far as words permit the sources and guiding principles of her art. She is an unusual person, not only gifted but able to speak of her artistic creations. Her life, and the place of abnormal experiences and phenomena in her art, are both of interest to

psychiatrists. Despite living in a psychiatric institution for close to 40 years, she continues to write and to make art of the highest quality. Her writing is lucid and her ideas, even when off the beaten track, are always exciting and challenging. Her work undermines the notion that severe mental illness is incompatible with art of the highest standard.

**Femi Oyebo** Professor of Psychiatry, University of Birmingham, National Centre for Mental Health, 25 Vincent Drive, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2FG, UK.  
Email: Femi.Oyebo@bsmhft.nhs.uk

doi: 10.1192/bjp.bp.112.110163

# advances in psychiatric treatment

Editor:  
Joe Bouch

Volume 18, Issue 5  
September 2012  
<http://apt.rcpsych.org>

## CONTENTS

### From the editor: Praxis

*Joe Bouch*

### Editorial: Health inequalities and mental life

*Michael Marmot*

### Meet the relatives: a reintroduction to the clinical pharmacology of 'typical' antipsychotics (Part 1)

*David Cunningham Owens*

### Meet the relatives: a reintroduction to the clinical pharmacology of 'typical' antipsychotics (Part 2)

*David Cunningham Owens*

### Commentary: Antipsychotics: psychiatry's biggest idea

*John Cookson*

### How mentalisation changes the mind

*Peter Fonagy & Gwen Adshead*

### Paying attention: Hippocratic and Asklepian approaches

*Robin Downie*

### Commentary: Searching for real holism

*Julian C. Hughes*

### Vascular dementia: a pragmatic review

*Hugh Series & Margaret Esiri*

### Supported accommodation for people with severe mental illness: an update

*Rob Macpherson, Geoff Shepherd & Praveen Thyarappa*

### Telemental health: videoconferencing in mental health services

*Sridhar Vaitheswaran, Philip Crockett, Sam Wilson & Harry Millar*

For further information on  
subscribing to this journal please  
contact:

Subscriptions Dept,  
Maney Publishing,  
Suite 1c, Joseph's Well,  
Hanover Walk, LEEDS  
LS3 1AB, UK.  
Tel: +44 (0)113 386 8168.  
Fax: +44 (0)113 386 8178.  
Email:  
subscriptions@maney.co.uk

Order online:  
[www.maney.co.uk/apt](http://www.maney.co.uk/apt)

### For US orders:

Maney Publishing North  
America,  
875 Massachusetts Avenue,  
7th Floor, Cambridge,  
MA 02139, USA.  
Tel: 866 297 5154 (toll free).  
Fax: +1 617 354 6875.  
Email:  
maney@maneyusa.com