Gestalt Therapy for Addictive and Self-Medicating Behaviors

This volume describes the most current gestalt approaches to treating substance abuse and other self-medicating behaviors by a leading practitioner and scholar in the field. It is based on the gestalt view of the self-medicating dynamic as one of pattern repetition and difficulty overcoming rigid patterns of response to sensory experience and life’s routine demands.

The book provides a practical model for helping clients with the gamut of self-medicating behaviors—substance abuse, overeating, gambling, overworking, rage, and others—and describes a recovery program as a system created to change one’s lifestyle over time through the development of disciplines that ultimately shape one’s life. The volume will also be helpful to therapists in other modalities as an alternative therapy when treating self-medicating clients, as well as a spiritual alternative to the 12-step approach.