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A Celebration of Trent Altman: Exceptional Artist with Soul

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By **kerstenrojas**, July 3, 2010 at 8:56 pm

I had an experience like none other when I met Trent Altman at Autism One in Chicago this past May. He gladly accepted my request to be photographed with

him and he gazed directly into my eyes down to my soul. We stood there for a very comfortable few minutes and communicated with our eyes. It was a life changing moment for me. Through his gaze, he related that he understood my relationship and journey with my son and that he is here to show the world love and emotion through his vision.

His vision is his art...his breathtakingly beautiful, meaningful art. With each piece you will experience sacred emotion and love.

Why would I personally be so taken by this artist? Trent and his family gave me hope...yes, even more than I already have. I sometimes express that my son is trapped in a body he cannot control or express, but experiencing Trent's art and talent that fateful day brought me to tears. He touched my soul, along with his mother, Jackie, whose dedication reminds me of myself. I often presume that what I do **every** mother helping her child would do, but I am sadly reminded by friends and colleagues, who see my passion first hand, that not all mother's are as dedicated, intense, and will advocate vehemently for their child under any circumstances. Jackie does so with utter grace and brilliance. She is who I aspire to emulate as my son matures into the teen and young adult years.

Jackie's 5 Essential Tips for Helping Teens and Young Adults with ASD

1) Acknowledge Challenges:

It is essential to make a list of the teen/adult's challenges, this is different from disability characteristics. For example, consider the challenges that limit his/her opportunity to participate in a certain event or in interacting with others. Offering service providers such as, a job coach, better understanding of the individual's limitations can be very helpful.

2) Make a list of all of his/her strengths, skills, interests, and talents. These can be used to connect to others in enjoyable and powerful ways.

3) Consider what is important to the young adult. It may be owning a pet or spending time outdoors. Integrate these areas of importance with interests, strengths, and talents.

4) Think about environments where his interests, strengths, and talents can be applied.

5) Establish people supports, structural options, and/or use of technical assistance to enhance involvement. These have profound impact on the individual's capability level.

For more [information](#)

Dr. Jackie Marquette's business, [Independence Bound](#).

**To learn more about Trent and his moving art,
visit his [website](http://www.trentsstudio.com/) (<http://www.trentsstudio.com/>)**

or via email jackiealt03@aol.com.



'University of Louisville Colors'

Trent's upcoming Show Schedule

"An International Obsession With Art"

Exhibition Schedule: June 19 -August 29, 2010

Opening VIP Reception: Thursday, June 17, 6 pm - 10 pm
Enjoy signature cocktails, gourmet hors d'oeuvres
and live music.

8 pm : Concert in VIP Tent

VIP Seating available at \$50 per ticket

Table of 10- \$500

7804 Spring Farm Glen Drive
Prospect, KY 40059

AND

The Spotlight Lexington at Triangle Park, Lexington, KY.

The World Equestrian Event.

<http://www.lexingtonky.gov/spotlightlexington/>

September 24 - 26, 2010

Trent's Biography in the words of his mother.

'Trent Altman is a 33 years old autistic man. He is a wonderful example of how someone with autism can grow and overcome challenges to live a full complete life with self- value and self worth. Yes Trent has autism, but I say autism does not have him. He has grown personally, matured, and reached living life beyond anyone's previous predictions. He has been employed at Meijer for 8 years and lives independently with a friend who is his roommate. He is a brother, a son, a nephew, a cousin, a neighbor, and is an artist with friends in the art community.

Painting has positively changed who Trent is. He paints what he cannot say. He is an expressionistic artist. Today Trent travels, exhibits at art shows and galleries, has won art awards, and exhibits at national disability conferences.

The PATH to Full Community Living:

The path to today was not easy. Trent was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3. He was placed in a self contained classroom throughout his school years. There was not much information about alternative therapies in the early 80s, yet Trent had early ABA intervention and benefited from the Feingold diet. Trent is a middle child, with Todd three years older and Travis his younger brother. With limited receptive and expressive language, he had tantrums daily. There are many memories I have of struggling to involve Trent into everyday family and outing activities. I always had an uphill battle advocating for speech therapy, appropriate goals and objectives for IEP, as well as inclusion with nondisabled students for socialization. Singing in the high school chorus and having a paid job with a job coach were some of the highlights of high school inclusion.

I believe that school transition was the most difficult part for Trent and our family. For the first two years after Trent left high school and without resources he had regressed into withdrawal and obsessive compulsive behaviors. Without opportunities to participate, be included, and grow, people with autism regress. For several years I networked and advocated to establish for Trent a life of his own. There are a lot of good people who have been involved in helping get Trent his life, too numerous to mention here.

With numerous broad creative supports i.e., friends, live-in assistant friend, community coaches, and coworker supports on his job, Trent first worked at K-Mart for one year putting security tags on clothes. For 8 years, Trent worked at Meijer on Preston

Highway, first in lawn and garden, then Pets Dept. Trent has been trained and retrained as his job changed at Meijer.

How we discovered Trent's gift as an artist:

One year after Trent had been living in his own house, I thought that he needed something more. I recalled that his teachers said through out the years that Trent loved working with his hands, crafts etc. I explored crafty art ideas. When art classes were mainly for advanced adults, or children, I approached Preston Arts Store and asked if anyone who worked there would be interested in coming to Trent's house and doing art work. I placed an ad on their bulletin board, and the next day a U of L art student responded: Teresa Adamchek. Teresa worked with Trent on different kinds of art activities, but painting was his favorite. After 6 months he began producing some very unique artistic pieces. That is how it all started. Trent's work has evolved over the past five years. Trent has grown in his ability to create. Today, Trent still has challenges with social communication and needs others to understand him and provide certain supports.

I believe:

I believe that people with autism should have opportunities and support to live their lives as fully as possible. Since he was a small child, I dreamt of him living as an adult with needs met, activities to enjoy life, and options to do and have things that were important to him, such as his own home, a job, a fun hobby, and friends. In every dreamed he would be an award winning artist. He is a contributing member of society. I suppose Trent and I both got icing on the cake.'

Trent, Jackie, and Ralph...Thank You for paving the way for us in this age of Autism. You are an amazing family unit, and an inspiration and the Ultimate Warrior Mom. I will never forget the day you and Trent touched mine and Cooper's soul.



LIFE, LOVE, EXPLOSION

LIFE, LOVE, EXPLOSION



IMAGINE
Our highest thoughts become our highest reality.

IMAGINE inscription: Our highest thoughts become our highest reality.



THE GOLDEN BRIDGE

Our gifts are found when crossing over.

THE GOLDEN BRIDGE inscription: Our gifts are found when crossing over.



TIME FOR PEACE

*After the storm subsides, there is tranquility. The fierce waves of gray turn
into waves of blue gently lapping the shore. Now is our time for peace.*

TIME FOR PEACE inscription: After the storm subsides, there is tranquility. The fierce waves of gray turn into waves of blue gently lapping the shore. Now is our time for pea



GOOD MORNING GOD

As we walk in the park, the morning sun in the sky of blue is energizing, opening up our senses. Joy is the result of this beautiful day.

GOOD MORNING GOD inscription: As we walk in the park, the morning sun in the sky of blue is energizing, opening up our senses. Joy is the result of this beautiful day.

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A MOONLIGHT WALK

In the dark of night, we're uncertain where to turn. We gaze peacefully at the light, we trust, and the direction is revealed.

A MOONLIGHT WALK inscription: In the dark of night, we're uncertain where to turn. When we gaze peacefully at the light, we trust, and the direction is revealed.



FLOWER OF GRATITUDE

*The petals reaching out to light represent all those who offer kindness, patience,
and a helping hand at a time when it is most needed.*

THE FLOWER inscription: The petals reaching out to light represents all those who offer kindness, patience, and a helping hand at a time when it is most needed.



BUTTERFLY

We can transform through difficult stages, moving with courage and beauty just as the butterfly.

BUTTERFLY inscription: We can transform through difficult stages, moving with courage and beauty just as the butterfly.



