MozArt@OMA
Curated by The Art of Autism
Selected Artist Statements

Alex Nichols, Encinitas

"Music makes me feel like I am in a different world. I like the rhythm. I want to make my weavings look like they have rhythm." -Alex Nichols

Alex Nichols is an artist with special needs who expresses himself through weaving and painting. He is a freestyle weaver who follows the Japanese concept of wabi-sabi, which represents embracing imperfection. Using a Saori loom and various hand weaving techniques, Alex creates wild and free wall hangings mixing textures and vibrant colors using yarn and unconventional materials such as strips of fabric from clothing like Hawaiian shirts, wire ribbon, jewelry, and toys.

Ikea Syance Wilson, Bakersfield

Ikea Wilson selects random songs that she likes and draws images that she feels represents those songs based on the key they were in and their rhythms. "For example [in the painting *Synesthesia*], the third square in the top left corner of the painting represents the song *Angel* by Shaggy. It is in the key of F sharp major, which was why I painted the background green, and the rhythm is at mid-tempo and it, somehow, reminds me of the letter "I". This was why I painted a distorted letter "I", which I decided to make grey because this song is by a musician who has a low vocal range."

Jeremy Sicile-Kira, San Diego

Intuitive painter Jeremy Sicile-Kira is a synesthete, meaning he sees and feels emotions, voices, and music as colors. Often, Jeremy's dreams influence his paintings.

On his artwork *The Vibrant Colors of the Opera Carmen* Sicile-Kira says, "truly I dreamt I painted the colors of beautiful Carmen in the film version of Bizet's opera, Carmen, directed by Francesco Rossi. Truly the colors were brilliant and frankly vibrant with the beauty of the opera singer Julia Migenes playing the part of Carmen. Greatly I felt the love that her leading man Don José, played by Plácido Domingo, greatly felt for Carmen. Truly there were other love stories going on but none as great as the love between Carmen and Don Jose. Their love is represented by beautiful hues of bright pink and red. Greatly yellow represents the happiness they felt when they realized they had met their true match in love. Green is for the calm between the passion of the songs they sung to each other. Represented nicely by real blue-like-the-sky, is the hope that they might greatly escape into their own world of nature. Kindly purple was there for the leadership they both had very much before they justly fell in love and were in real trouble. Mighty is their lust and passion represented through song and dance, kindly seen in the color magenta. Orange, brilliant in its brightness, represents the fun-loving Carmen's spirit for dance and song with her fellow gypsies. White represents the hope that the soldier Don Jose has that great Carmen will accept his undying love and run away with him. Indigo frankly is the knowledge all Carmen's gypsy friends have that Carmen will do only as she pleases. Great mighty just gold and silver represent the universal love that in this case ends in tragedy for the main characters."

Joel Anderson, Fallbrook

Joel Anderson on his painting *Mozart: Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* : "The painting was done with acrylic paint, then photographed with lighting on Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. This piece firstly features the crescent moon with Mozart's face. The stars appear in the night sky as musical notes representing *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik* written by Mozart. To me, I see an outdoor symphony in the heavenlies. When I listened to the music I saw shooting stars aglow, and the beautiful greens fluttering like the aurora borealis. Fireworks booming and sparkling in orange and reds, with a finale of purple colored swirls of the wind. I thought to myself, I need to make this come alive and try to share with the world what I see. My synesthesia comes and goes like the Northern Lights. When it is there, painting can be a very magical experience. I love that I can share the creation of God in my art. I bet Mozart felt the same with his music. I wonder if what I paint is matched with the musical vibration of the notes of what Mozart saw when he composed this piece. We set up the lights and camera in my studio and as I painted, photos were taken after the strokes. Slowly my artwork came alive on the canvas and the computer. In media, it appears to be a time lapse version of the actual artwork, but it is closer to a stop motion production, syncopated with the music of Mozart."

Kaedyn Carmon, San Diego
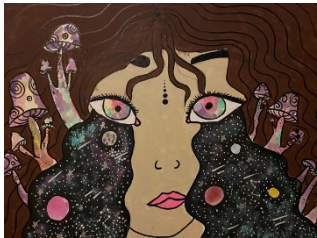
Kaedyn Cameron on her painting *100 Moons*: This piece is related to my favorite song called *100 moons* by Savannah Saturn and Jon Marco. It is related to this piece because of sadness and joy in the lady's tears. The mushroom represents dreams. The lady's tears resemble outer space to represent the lyrics "will you pick me up whenever I am down." When she is down, she is sad and she is asking someone to pick her up to make her feel better. I used watercolors, acrylic paint in brown, tan, black, and blue, paint pen in black and white, ultra-fine point sharpie pen, and silver paint pen.
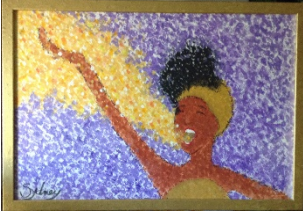
Kevin Hosseini, El Cajon

Kevin Hosseini sees objects as colors and shapes. He is known for his textured art and use of the palette knife.

Parker Franco, Vista

At the end of *Fantasia 2000*, Parker Franco's favorite movie, the score plays the *Firebird Suite*. To Franco, the song is about rebirth and good being better than evil.

Sydney Edmond, Temecula

Sydney Edmond was unable to communicate until the age of ten when she learned how to point to letters and express her thoughts. Sydney uses poetry and art to communicate her thoughts and feelings.

This painting represents what she imagines her voice would look like if she could sing, sparkly and gold.

She also wrote a poem to accompany her artwork in this exhibition::

My paintings
Like my poetry
Pour
Out
Like a prison escape.
What you see
Exclamations of great joy!
I paint
And my soul colors the canvas.
A wave of happiness washes over me
And I hope
Those who view my work