

MIND'S EYE

Art Across the Spectrum

BY DEBRA MUZIKAR



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Kevin Mount is a 21-year-old Sacramento-area artist who at age five was diagnosed with autism. Kevin's art emerged at the age of three, before his autism diagnosis, when he started drawing simple animated characters he saw on TV. By the age of seven, his artwork started to be noticed. At the young age of 10, Kevin created a mono print of a cat's face that later won first prize in the Crocker Art High School competition. In 2011, while still a teen, Kevin had a solo exhibit at the Crocker Art Museum. Later that same year, he won the Sacramento Fine Art Center's judge award for his original representation of Picasso's "Guernica." He also won second place at the California State Fair for a watercolor of his backyard lemon tree.

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In addition to his autism, Kevin had many medical issues and has been hospitalized for potassium blockages and encephalitis. As a result of some of his medical issues, he has been on "home hospital" since 2010. It's taken many years for Kevin's mom Ana to come to terms with Kevin's autism and other medical conditions. "The acceptance came after years of denial and trying to fix what I couldn't. It got to the point that I was thankful that he was alive," Ana says.

Art and music have always been important to Kevin. "As a little guy he was singing, dancing and making us laugh," says Ana. "That's why we decided to put him in performing

arts in the community." Kevin has done musical theater, dance, piano, and singing. Ana has found the arts to have provided the most meaningful experiences for Kevin. "If there were a measure for happiness, Kevin would be the winner. It's such a joy to see him performing in front of hundreds of people," Ana says.

Giving back is also important to Kevin. He has donated over 100 of



▲ **CAT**—by Kevin Mount.

his art pieces to the community to help other children in the arts or with medical needs.

Kevin has an ongoing display at "The Bag Lady" in Folsom, California. In January of this year he had a solo exhibit at the Sacramento Fine Arts Center. His art has been in museums and galleries throughout California. Kevin is very proud to have been featured on KVIE Public TV last July. <http://vids.kvie.org/video/2365536099/> ◀



◀ *FLOWERS*—by Kevin Mount.



▶ *PIANO*—by Kevin Mount.



◀ *RAINBOW GIRL*—
by Kevin Mount.