

# Artist's work chosen for stamp

## Project honors Autism Day

By Charlie White

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The Courier-Journal

Oakdale resident Trent Altman is one of eight autistic artists whose works were chosen by the United Nations Postal Administration to appear on stamps in honor of World Autism Day on April 2.

Altman, 35, works from a studio at Small Town Gallery in the Brooks area of northern Bullitt County, where he is mentored by artist Dennis Shaffner and art facilitator Lori Montgomery.

Altman and the other artists have been invited to a ceremony at the U.N. Headquarters in New York on April 3, where U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon is expected to dedicate the stamps.

"I'm just so thrilled that he was chosen," said Altman's mother, Jackie



Trent Altman is with mother Jackie Marquette, stepfather Ralph Marquette, and live-in assistant Jason Williams, right. C-J FILE PHOTO

Marquette, who lives in Fern Creek.

Altman's abstract acrylic paintings and mixed media collages also have been featured at the St. James Court Art Show, Art in the Arbor Festival, the Mellwood Arts Center and the Autism One Conference in Chicago.

Autism, a developmental disorder, limits Altman's ability to speak and relate to others. Marquette handles the business side of his art, which she said has allowed him to connect with other people in ways that he never

started a few years later when Marquette began working with him to create original bookmarks for her first book, "Independence Bound: A Mother and Her Autistic Son's Journey to Adulthood."

Recently, the advocacy group Autism Speaks sent out information through various disability organizations that it was looking for submissions of autistic artwork to be featured on U.N. stamps.

The stamps will be available at U.N. offices in New York, Geneva and Vienna or online at [## TRENT ALTMAN](http://unstamp-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

To learn more about or purchase Trent Altman's artwork, go to [www.trents-studio.com](http://www.trents-studio.com). For more information about Strokes of Genius, go to [www.rcmautism-notebook.com](http://www.rcmautism-notebook.com).

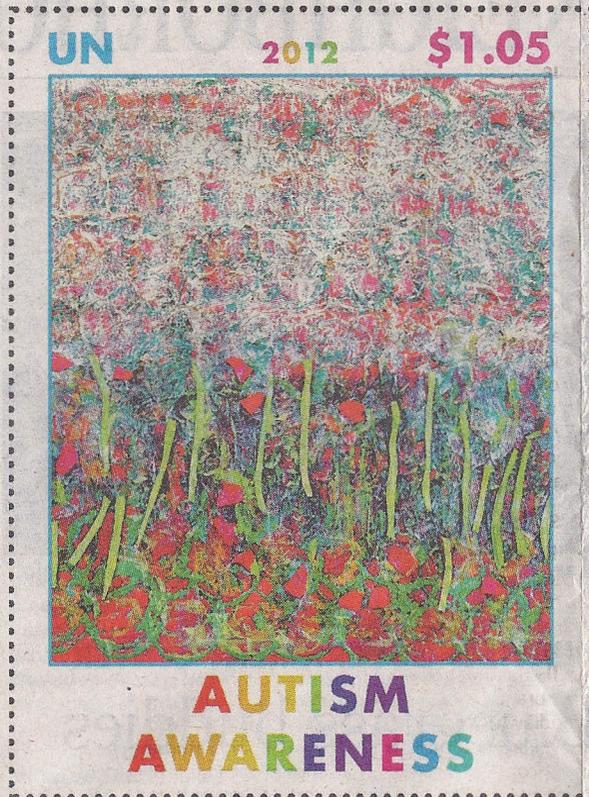
[s.un.org](http://s.un.org).

Rorie Katz, creative director for the U.N. Postal Administration, said they expect to print 1 million of each stamp.

On April 2, Strokes of Genius and the McCarton Foundation will hold an art exhibition to honor Altman at the United Nations Plaza.

Artists and their families must pay their own expenses for the New York trip, and Marquette said it will be tough to finance the trip between now and then.

To help cover Altman's expenses for the trip, signed commemorative posters with his award-winning image "An Abstract Garden II" are for



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sale for \$12 each on his website.

In addition, a commemorative poster signing event will be held from 5:30 until 7:30 p.m. Friday at South Bayly

Boutique, 107 S. Bayly Ave., during the F.A.T. Friday Trolley Hop along Frankfort Ave.

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