



# MIND'S EYE

*Art Across the Spectrum*



**James Frye of Spokane, Washington**, was diagnosed with autism at age three and was mostly nonverbal until the age of six. James' art enables him to move beyond his communication limitations. Each piece is thoughtfully named.

He recently told his mom, Wendy, he hears colors when he listens to music. James, like his dad, has an impressive LP collection. His art is influenced by the British invasion musicians and Moog synthesizer music.

To create his futuristic throwback art, James researches on the internet during the week. Then early on Saturday mornings, he sits at his computer creating his art work using an electronic drawing pad that integrates into his computer. He draws all his work himself freehand.

By 8:30 a.m., his work is completed and he shows his parents. Wendy blows the digital art up for display. The pieces are big, usually at least three feet wide.

James, who had been in self-contained special education classrooms his entire academic life, surprised teachers when he passed the standardized test to receive his high school diploma. He received a "stomping ovation" when he received his diploma. Now that he has graduated from high school, James is much more relaxed and concentrating on his art. His graduation gift was a trip to the Museum of Modern Art in San Francisco.

"James is a synesthes," his mom Wendy says. Synesthesia is a neurological condition where stimulation of one sensory or cognitive pathway leads to automatic, involuntary experiences in a second sensory or cognitive pathway.

James' art is heavily influenced by post-modern artists. He has books of art he looks at in his room. His favorite artists are Picasso, Kadinsky, Mondrain, and Charlie Harper. His goals are to learn animation, travel, and to learn the practical aspects of his business, such as how to put a canvas together. ◀



## FIND OUT MORE

**James Frye's FB page:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/jamesfryeartist>

**His website:** [www.jamesfryeartist.com](http://www.jamesfryeartist.com)

As a featured artist on **The Art of Autism:**  
[www.the-art-of-autism.com](http://www.the-art-of-autism.com)