



# MIND'S EYE

*Art Across the Spectrum*

“CANDY CANE” ACRYLIC BY CANDACE WATERS



Candace Waters, a vivacious redhead, was diagnosed with autism at three years old. She is now 13 and nonverbal.

She is, however, able to express herself through her bright and cheerful paintings. Candy's mom Sandy believes Candy's paintings give people hope, inspiring them while raising autism awareness.

“We feel Candy is giving all of us a unique little glimpse into her world,” Sandy says. “Her paintings allow us to see what she sees and feel what she feels. As you can see by her beautiful

paintings, it must be a bright happy world.” Painting is therapeutic for Candy. When she paints, she laughs.

Candy has been painting since she was six years old when a teacher sent her home with some materials and asked her parents if she could paint a picture for their fundraiser. One of her first paintings sold for \$100 in a local gallery. Her parents keep most of Candy's originals. Some of her prints have sold for over \$500. Her art has received local and national media attention and is featured in my book, *The Art of Autism: Shifting Perceptions*. Candy's “Ray of Hope” painting will be displayed in the newly

constructed Dan Marino Foundation museum located in the heart of downtown Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Candy's parents wrote a song for Candy titled *Faith, Love & Hope* which has become an anthem for autism awareness. Candy has thousands of fans on her Facebook page. ◀

## FIND OUT MORE

- ▶ **Candy Waters Autism Art Facebook Page**  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Candy-Waters-Autism-Artist/559925447386478>
- ▶ **You can buy Candace Waters art cards at**  
[www.autcards.com](http://www.autcards.com)