

**Bobby W.**

Robert or Bobby, as he is fondly called by his friends, was born in Marlborough Massachusetts in 1960. Bobby now lives with his father and two brothers in Fort Lauderdale Florida. He attends the Ann Storck Center's Expressive Arts Program, a non profit organization in Fort Lauderdale serving children and adults with severe profound developmental disabilities. Bobby joined the Ann Storck Center's Fine arts program in 1994. He has been an avid artist ever since.

Bobby is a very special individual who despite his developmental disabilities is very capable and expressive. Even though he does not say much, Bobby, nods and smiles broadly and hugs everyone he comes in contact with. He loves to help others and is always eager to lend a hand, pushing a fellow program participant in a wheelchair or opening doors for them. His sweet nature and gentle demeanor endear him to both staff and other participants.

When he first began painting, Bobby started off only working on very small surfaces, in a tight, rigid, pointillist style. He appeared tense in his movements, not easily able to relax and express himself openly. Bobby participated in the Music Therapy and Art program at the Ann Storck center for years allowing him to open up and gain self-confidence. After years of hard work and diligence, Bobby has been able to open up his brush strokes, and now paints in flowing smooth circles and broad vertical lines, creating some of the more amazing pieces we have seen. He covers every surface with his whimsical style and works on large canvases filling the studio with color and brightness.

Bobby's progress and obvious enjoyment in his art are a classic example of how creativity can change not only the life of the artist himself, but of the viewer. One can experience an uncanny emotion in the intensity of his gaze. Bobby will proudly point out his works to guests and friends, inviting them to see his accomplishments. He delights in choosing vibrant colors and blending them on his painting surface, and as he paints he frequently steps back, thoughtfully choosing his next application of color. When the finished piece is observed, impressionistic vistas of flowers and magical landscapes lift the heart, reminiscent of another period of time.

Bobby's unique perceptions have contributed to several art exhibitions and publications. His talent has reached across the board including painting theatrical sets, greeting cards, and special collaborate pieces for major exhibits.

His collection has rapidly become some of Ann Storck Centers' most popular pieces. Among the best known are Bobby's Bouquet, a veritable riot of color in a floral display, and Poppy's, an unusual combination of lines and circles bringing to mind musical notes on a white background. Other newer works include Amapolas en la Noche (Poppies at Night) and Vintage Bobby, both of which are unique pieces that are a marvel to look at.

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