

Autistic artist discover

By **Christa Ritchie**

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At 27, Trent Altman recently discovered a talent he never knew he had.

His mother asked him to help her design bookmarks to go along with a book she had published a couple of years ago.

Jackie Marquette was just looking for a creative way for her autistic son to express himself. Little did mother and son know it would take off the way it

has.

Now he's a full-fledged artist who will be featured in the Ursuline Campus Art Fair this weekend.

"He loves it. It actually has changed how he perceives himself," Marquette said, adding that his art has made her son more socially interactive.

Prints in three sizes, notecards and Christmas cards done in acrylic paint by Altman will be for sale at the fair.

"The message behind this is that with people with disabilities, you don't



Artist Trent Altman, 27, who is autistic, will be featured in the Ursuline Campus Art Fair this weekend.

vered a love of acrylic

always know what their gifts are, but I think if you explore it a little bit and give them opportunities, you will find out," Marquette said.

Altman is also the featured artist this month at the Lionheart Gallery at the Hyatt Regency downtown, and his work will soon be for sale at Taste of Kentucky in Mall St. Matthews. He'll have his work at the St. James Court Art Show next month. His work also is for sale on his Web site, www.independen-cebound.com/trentsprints.

More than 100 artists will sell jewelry, pottery, watercolors and more at the 18th annual Ursuline Campus Art Fair.

"We have everything," said Dana Hinton, Ursuline's public relations coordinator. "We get a lot of comments from the community that we are quality over quantity."

Besides the art fair, visitors will be entertained with live musical performances, a children's area, food and refreshments and a coffee booth.

IF YOU GO

► The Ursuline Campus Art Fair is 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow and Sunday on the campus of the Ursuline schools, 3105 Lexington Road.

► Admission to the fair is free, but parking is limited. A free shuttle will take guests from the parking lot at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to the fair.

► No pets are allowed.
► For more information, call (502) 896-3999.