

AMANDA LAMUNYON

Impressionist Artist

Oklahoma born 1995



Amanda LaMunyon began painting when she was 7 years old. She was diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome at the age of 8. She began reading at the age of 4. In kindergarten she drew all her ABCs instead of cutting out pictures for them. This would be the first sign of Amanda's artistic ability. She had a difficult time staying in school. Her teachers said she could repeat all the rules but could not seem to apply them. She was a happy little girl but her spirit began to wane because of her seeming inability to fit in. Her art changed everything. Her spirit began to flourish once again. No longer did her peers see her only as a rowdy little girl who would not sit still, but now as an artist. She began to express herself through painting. Amanda loves to sing. At age 9, she began to paint her impression of the songs she loves. She says that she can share her faith through her art and that she wants to encourage others with learning difference or challenges in their lives not to give up, but to dream big dreams.

Amanda's desire to encourage others, emerged from an inward world to a world of giving and caring. She has become a prolific speaker about the "world of Autism" that she lives in. By sharing her story through the arts, Amanda has received many awards, including "The Prudential Spirit of Community Award", "Kohl's Kids Who Care" "The President's Daily Points of Light", "The President's Volunteer Service Award", "Outstanding Individual with Autism of the Year" with ASA, The National American Miss "National Volunteer Service Award" and the "Yes I Can Award", CEC. She was honored before the Oklahoma State Senate. She has been honored to give paintings to President George W. Bush, former First Lady Nancy Reagan, and to First Lady of Nevada Dawn Gibbons. Amanda has been featured in many books including: "The Covid Canvas" by Dr. Rosa Martinez, "Islands of Genius", by Dr. Darold Treffert, "The Art of Autism", by Debbie Hosseini and Rosa Martinez, "Drawing Autism", by Jill Mullin, and "Girls Under the Umbrella of the Autism Spectrum" by Dr. Ernsperger and Danielle Wendell (her painting graced the cover of this book), and many others. Amanda has also been featured in numerous magazines and news articles including "The Today Show" on NBC.