

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: United Nations AUTISM AWARENESS Stamps Announced

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### **TWO Strokes of Genius Artists' Win UN Award**

New York, N.Y. On April 2, 2012 Strokes of Genius will be holding their Second Benefit to celebrate our extraordinary artists and their families. On January 25, 2012, the United Nations announced the winning artists for the Autism Awareness Stamp <http://unstamps.un.org/doc/Announcement/Autism.pdf> .

Signed certificates from **Temple Grandin** will be presented to our pioneering parents who have nurtured and supported an artistic journey for their sons and daughters. Also honored, will be **Trent Altman** and **Seth Chwast** (both SOG artists), who are among the 8 artists selected after a worldwide search by the United Nations Postal Administration and whose winning designs will be featured on the The United Nations World Autism Awareness Stamp!

Another highpoint to this evening will be the individual speakers who are young artists on the spectrum as they pay tribute to their parents. **Amanda LaMunyon** (16 years old) is the Keynote speaker. Amanda's 2008 speech at the United Nations World Autism Awareness Inaugural event left the UN Delegates in tears. Amanda will be followed by 14 year old **Paloma Kalisch**. Extraordinary prints and original art from additional SOG artists ( **Donna Williams, Ping Lian Yeak, Erik Warren and Jonathan Lerman**) will also be available for sale commemorating this historical event.

The art exhibition and reception are in support of the Strokes of Genius mission to empower individuals with ASD and to "**Train The Talent**". Our program is innovatively committed to expanding social responsibility by way of inclusionary initiatives. TTT<sup>SM</sup> will provide a curriculum and series of art workshops to introduce young students with ASD to an art studio experience; provide certification in TTT<sup>SM</sup> to art therapists; create mentoring roles through inclusion for savant artists as instructors for young children; create and increase exhibition opportunities for artists; establish a Strokes of Genius traveling exhibition where artists on the spectrum can exhibit their extraordinary works as "artists" as opposed to "artists with autism" alongside mainstream recognized artists.

This event is made possible through the support of the **McCarton School for Autism, the McCarton Center for Developmental Pediatrics, Stuart Flaum - Special Needs Family Planning, and The National Autism Association – NY Metro Chapter.**

For more information about **Strokes of Genius** go to [www.strokesofgeniusinc.org](http://www.strokesofgeniusinc.org)