



[Image Credit- Jeremy's Vision- Facebook](#)

Jeremy Sicile-Kira, Visionary Artist

By Tracey Ghassaei

“Follow your dreams” is a REFRAIN many people hear, but for one California man, his dreams literally came true. Born in 1989, he languished in special education classes for years before learning to type his thoughts. (LANGUISH means to suffer from being forced to remain in an unpleasant situation.) He went on to graduate from high school with an academic DIPLOMA (certificate) and attended community college before finding his passion in his dreams. He says, “My name is JEREMY SICILE-KIRA. I am a visionary artist. I paint my dreams.”

Spell REFRAIN VISIONARY DREAMS

Who are we learning about today? JEREMY SICILE-KIRA

What word means to suffer while remaining in an unpleasant situation?

LANGUISH

The certificate one receives after finishing school is a _____. DIPLOMA

What changed his school trajectory? LEARNING TO TYPE HIS THOUGHTS

When was Jeremy born? 1989

What's another inspirational refrain you've heard?

What's your passion?



(Source: <https://www.semel.ucla.edu/nadc/artist/story/jeremy-sicile-kira>)

Jeremy says that color and patterns have always been important to him. “I was born in Paris, France and I loved to follow the beautiful patterns in the ceramic and MOSAIC tile floors in old buildings and CATHEDRALS (a large church presided over by a bishop.) Museums were full of bright paintings I loved to look at out of the corner of my eye. Then came England before moving to SAN DIEGO at the age of 7. I grew up inspired by the beautiful ocean.”

Spell PARIS BEAUTIFUL

A large church is a _____ CATHEDRAL

He loved the ceramic and ___ tile floors. MOSAIC

Where did he look at paintings? MUSEUMS

Besides paintings, what else would you find in a museum? ARTIFACTS, STATUES, ETC

What else inspired him as a child? THE BEAUTIFUL OCEAN

Name 2 places Jeremy has lived. PARIS, FRANCE, USA, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, ENGLAND

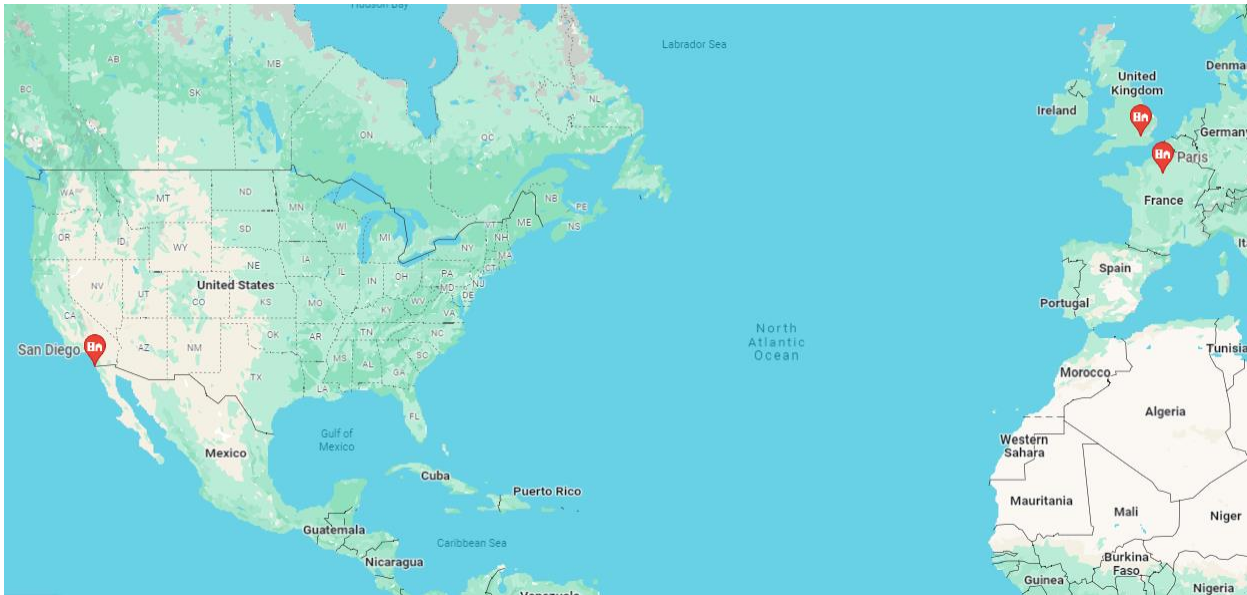
Jeremy says that _____ and _____ have always been important to him. COLOR, PATTERN

How old was he when he moved to San Diego? 7

What year would that have been? $1989 + 7 = 1996$

What's something you like to look at?

Trace Jeremy's moves on the globe. (or use map on last page)



Participating in art activities was always difficult for him as a child, due to the smells and textures of paints, as well as the motor challenges of MANIPULATING the art tools and supplies. Then, in 2012, Jeremy communicated to others that he was painting colorful PORTRAITS of people in his dreams and had dreamed of an art show. His mother, CHANTAL, told him that it wouldn't happen unless he actually painted in real life, so he learned to paint. Four years later, his first CURATED (carefully chosen) solo show "Inner DIMENSIONS" was held at Space4Art in San Diego.

Spell MANIPULATING DIMENSIONS TEXTURES

What word means a painting of a person? PORTRAIT

What is Jeremy's mom's name? CHANTAL

Something carefully chosen is _____. CURATED

Name one issue that made art difficult for Jeremy as a child. SMELLS AND TEXTURES OF PAINTS, MOTOR CHALLENGES, MANIPULATING TOOLS AND ART SUPPLIES

Besides art, what else might be curated? A PLAYLIST, POETRY FOR A BOOK, A COLLECTION, ETC

When was his first show? Use the whole math phrase. $2012 + 4 = 2016$

How have your motor challenges impacted your life?

Watch [Inner Dimensions: Jeremy Sicile-Kira's first curated solo Art Show](#) (2:39)



(Source: <http://treyspeegle.com/010113/2016/4/9/autistic-artist-jeremy-sicile-kira-sees-peoples-emotions-translated-into-color>)

Jeremy surprised his family when he told them he sees numbers, emotion, and music in color. SYNESTHESIA, the neurological PHENOMENON that causes sensory crossovers such as Jeremy's, is said to affect around 4% of the POPULATION, but that number is 5 times higher in artists. He states, "When I look at a face, it looks like a PICASSO portrait. I keenly see their emotions as color and that is where I get the emotional cues. Hearing music and people's voices elicits color as well. I greatly see colors around everything that is alive, in specks of dust, and in the tiny dots that make up the letters in names. It is really magnificent to see!"

Spell PHENOMENON PICASSO POPULATION

What do you call the neurological phenomenon that causes sensory crossover?
SYNESTHESIA

Where does Jeremy see color? Tell me two. NUMBERS, EMOTIONS, MUSIC, PEOPLE'S VOICES, EVERYTHING THAT IS ALIVE, IN SPECKS OF DUST, IN THE TINY DOTS THAT MAKE UP THE LETTERS IN NAMES

What percent of the population is thought to have synesthesia? 4%

What percent of artists have synesthesia? $4 \times 5 = 20\%$

Who was Picasso and what do his portraits look like? SPANISH ARTIST (see last page for example)

How does your experience of music and numbers compare to Jeremy's experience?



[Live Painting Demonstration ART San Diego 2016, Jeremysvision.com](http://Jeremysvision.com)

On his website MISSION page, Jeremy says, “Art has frankly given a meaning to my life. I give people hope by showing them their inner beauty and SPIRITUAL ESSENCE Before I learned to type to communicate, I frankly lived in darkness. Gradually my mother and educators were able to reach me. They realized I had hidden gifts. This gave me hope and saved me from a life of DESPAIR. It gave me my reason to live.” He calls his portraits “bright daily reminders of our inner abilities and true POTENTIAL, so that we can become our best selves.”

SPELL MISSION ABILITIES POTENTIAL

Jeremy says he gives people hope by showing them their inner beauty and _____ SPIRITUAL ESSENCE

His mother and educators realized he had _____ HIDDEN GIFTS

How does he describe his life before he learned to type to communicate?

DARKNESS, HE LIVED IN DARKNESS, etc.

Define despair in your own words. COMPLETE LOSS OF HOPE, LOSS OF HOPE, HOPELESS, etc.

One word challenge- What gives meaning to your life?

Watch: [Jeremy's Vision | My Mission As An Artist](#)
[Vision: How a Man With Autism Finds Himself, Communicates in Art.](#)

Creative writing choices:

1- Is there a particular artist or style of art you enjoy? How does it make you feel?

2- Synesthesia is an overlapping of senses. Are there any ways your senses overlap? If so, how would you describe it?

3- If you had no barriers, what's one of your dreams you would like to follow?

Make a painting inspired by Jeremy's art.

Watch the video of Jeremy painting and look at a few of his paintings to start.
[See Jeremy's paintings here](#)

Supplies needed: canvas or canvas panel of any size, acrylic paints, painter's tape, brushes or other painting tools such as balloons, offset spatula, small roller, foam brush, easel or covered table

Choose your paint colors and tools (on the letterboard or by offering a selection)

Using broad strokes, cover the canvas with the chosen colors

Let the paint dry completely

Cover with strips of painters tape in various directions

Repeat the painting steps

Peel off the tape to reveal the design underneath

Option- do a collaborative project with others, having each person add to the canvas throughout the week, then give each one a piece of it at the end. We did this by taping small magnetic canvases together on the backside, then taping the whole thing to another canvas for support -





Pablo Picasso, *Portrait of Dora Maar* (1937)

Sources:

[Jeremy Sicile-Kira](#) and [Synesthesia and creativity in fine arts students: An Empirical Look](#)