

Mouth and Eyes

What would it be like to paint if you could not see? Ask John Bramblitt. He is an American painter. He is also blind.

John lost his sight when he was 30 years old. He was very sad. To cheer himself up, he learned to paint.

Some people didn't think he'd be able to paint without sight. But he proved them wrong. He kept trying. He found a way.

John uses his hands to feel what he wants to paint. Then he traces the outlines on canvas. He paints a lot of portraits, which are paintings of people. He feels the angles of their faces with his fingers.

John can tell the color of paint by its texture. He uses the textures to mix different colors together. He is known for his bright and colorful paintings.

When John first started to sell his art, he didn't tell people that he was blind. He wanted them to enjoy his art without thinking about his differences. But he is proud to be a blind artist. His differences make his art extra special.

John says, "art is both my mouth and eyes." He expresses himself through his art, which makes it like his mouth. He also sees the world through his art. That makes it like his eyes.



John lives in Texas with his wife, son, and guide dog. His art is famous all over the world. His story inspires other people with differences to try art too.



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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

1. What is different about John?
 - a. He is a painter
 - b. He is blind
 - c. He is deaf
 - d. He is 30

2. What are portraits?
 - a. Paintings by people who are blind
 - b. Paintings of people
 - c. Paintings of animals
 - d. Colorful paintings

3. How does John tell the color of paint?
 - a. By its weight
 - b. By its angles
 - c. By its texture
 - d. By its label

4. How is John's art like his mouth?
 - a. It is colorful
 - b. It is how he sees the world
 - c. It is different
 - d. It is how he expresses himself

Instructions for teachers:

These questions can be used to assess understanding of the reading passage.

The item in bold is the correct answer for each question.

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