



Dan Pearce/Metroland

At top left, Amanda Orichefsky makes a face at her mom Annette Blaker who is holding a paint palette for her. She paints with a brush in her mouth at the Daniels Spectrum building with her mom's help. Orichefsky, who has been drawing with her mouth since age five has to replace her wooden brushes frequently because they deteriorate in her mouth.

DISABILITY DOESN'T STOP ARTIST

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Scarborough's Amanda Orichefsky started her life with a severe disability and learned to overcome it at a very early age.

Amanda was diagnosed with Arthrogryposis at birth. The condition distorts her musculature and causes paralysis. She started surgeries at three weeks of age to lower her legs and feet down to a normal level.

At five-years-old she realized that she could draw by using a pencil in her

mouth.

Now she paints, which helps her feel independent because she requires help to do most other things in life.

Amanda was accepted as a student at the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists in 2003 and then received a scholarship to further her artistic talents.

Painting helps take away Amanda's anxiety because it distracts her and gives her a different way of expressing herself.

