

# Buzz Cafe Featured Artist of the Month:

*introducing... Grace Cooley*

“My name is Grace Cooley and I have a unique process of creating art which I’ve been doing for awhile. I am 16 years old and I am a Sophomore at Northwood High School in the Occupational Course of Study Program. I like hanging out with my friends, listening to music, Shopping, Starbucks, playing with my cats, and Tar Heel Men’s Basketball!

I have a mild Intellectual and Developmental Disability that affects my fine motor skills and sometimes my impulse control. Art is a calming, creative release for me. My dad was an artist and he inspired me to be an artist.

My latest project is coffee-filter art. The process evolved organically. When I was younger, I colored white coffee filters with basic Crayola markers. I used to give them away and sometimes sell them to friends and neighbors for 25 cents each.

Later, by accident, I discovered that drops of water dripped on the filters made the colors bleed together like a tie-dye effect.

Last spring, an artist friend suggested putting the filters together on a canvas using Mod Podge as the adhesive. My mom helps me with the mod-podging.

My favorite parts doing the coffee-filter art are the coloring and seeing people's reactions at the final products. I really like the coloring because I have a way with putting colors together. I like making people happy when they see my art and I sometimes customize pieces according to what colors people love.”

*Enter a raffle to win an original piece by Grace. Purchase your \$5 ticket at the register all month long. Our monthly art raffle is a fundraiser for the store, with great appreciation to the artist for her kind donation.*