In the present communication we explored the relationships between temperament and creativity across bipolar disorder, with the specific goal of understanding which temperamental traits are most strongly related to creativity. The bipolar–creativity association may be related to temperamental differences, such as increased cyclothymia that contributes to enhance openness to experience, increase of consciousness, intense activity, heighten of perceptive skills and sensibility.

We will focus our presentation in the musical and painting creativity taking as example several artists with excessive temperamental traits and will review prospective studies of non-eminent creativity in mood disorder patients. These are limited in size, scope, and number, but include findings complementing those in eminent creators, suggesting that some facets of bipolar disorder, but not the disorder itself, may confer advantages for creativity.