

Siddharth Gadiyar's joyful colour visions

To create his kaleidoscopic, large-scale works on paper, the artist Siddharth Gadiyar marks out lines with segments of tape, before painting them over with bold bands of colour, often orientating his abstract compositions around a central point from which all the lines radiate. The results are huge, joyful mandalas that act like magnets for eyes; his solo show at Brighton's Phoenix Art Space in 2019 was one of the most popular in the gallery's history.

'Siddharth has a clear vision and works at pace, assessing each stage and then acting confidently on instinct,' explains Patricia Finnegan, an artist with whom Gadiyar has worked since 2018, when as a 19-year-old he joined her at Hastings' Project Art Works (PAW), a collective of neurodiverse artists and activists. Gadiyar has severe autism, learning disability and speech impairment, which challenge every aspect of his daily life. PAW facilitates his practice in a weekly session, where others



have declined due to his complex needs. 'This space has been so therapeutic,' explains his mother Susmitha. 'In all other settings he has to adapt: here he is free.' Mali Morris RA encouraged his Summer Exhibition submissions

– two small works, including one inspired by a picture of Frida Kahlo. 'Siddharth's autism can be challenging,' says Susmitha. 'Nothing comes easy for him. It is emotional to see him overcome that and make beautiful art.'

RA



Changing the face of the Summer Exhibition

Yinka Shonibare RA's vision
for a more inclusive show