

## **Autistic woman opens first exhibition on World Autism Awareness Day**

Starting on World Autism Awareness Day (2nd April), local artist Robyn Steward has an exhibition of new paintings called Flap at the Caribbean restaurant ACE Fusion, 110 St Johns Hill, Wandsworth, SW11 1SJ. Media are welcome to attend a private viewing from 5:30- 7:30pm on the 1st April.

Robyn's body of work focuses on her experiences over the last few months, and chronicles her-thoughts on living with 10 disabilities including Asperger syndrome, a form of autism, as well as all the normal trials and tribulations of being a young woman living and working in London.

Robyn (23) from Wandsworth paints in a style that is all her own using her fingers as this is the only way she can access her feelings on canvas. Her experiences lend her artwork a visceral and emotionally wrought feel often at odds with the stereotypes of her autism. She describes her work as an unfiltered, unconscious and sometimes compulsive outpouring which she has discovered helps her to regulate her emotions.

Robyn says; "Living with Asperger syndrome is like being behind an opaque wall; the world beyond it a confusing and inaccessible place. Art, music and creativity remove bricks in the wall and allow communication to flow through."

It is Robyn's gift for the visual that aids her both as an artist and in her career as a self-employed trainer to professionals working with people with autism. She mentors young people with the condition, has completed lecture tours of the US and is due to speak in Australia next year. Some of her artwork is soon to be displayed in a recreational centre for people with autism and their families in New York.

For more information visit [www.robysteward.com](http://www.robysteward.com)

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