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Encouraging a culture of social collaboration for artists with ASD through mentorship with local artists

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Recent researches on Autism find that people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) show strength in visual information, and they are called 'visual thinkers'. Some individuals with ASD display extraordinary talents in art, and their artworks successfully draw attention from publics. Visual arts become a language for the visual thinkers with ASD. However, the emerging artists with ASD are still an outsider of art galleries and markets. This research explores right conditions to grow artists with ASD in a collaborative environment within art and design industries. Analysing present social structures for the artists with ASD: individual family supports, studio settings and art organisations, is elemental to investigate what strategies should be implemented to improve the conditions for facilitating their creativity and productivity in the areas of behavioural management, appropriate environments and individual needs.

The research also intends to encourage mentorship between local artists and artists with ASD so that they can grow in synergy with right conditions of social collaboration based on the strategies. The social collaboration can create productive opportunities for both artists with ASD and local artists. The right conditions for artists with ASD also expect to clarify the legal issues: copyrights, and intellectual properties which should be different to independent artists because a majority of artists with ASD require a proxy for intervening the copyright and licence agreement. The right conditions for social collaboration through mentorship grow opportunities to popularise artworks of artists with ASD.