

## **All the world's an image: Is it turning artistic or autistic?**

From time immemorial, Western culture has placed a premium on the verbal information and deemed visual artefacts a second-rate expression of ideas. However, with the advent of visual culture as a phenomenon, this verbal hegemony has been challenged. The ubiquity of images in contemporary visual culture suggests that images are (re-)produced, consumed, and distributed widely and routinely in a variety of contexts, ranging from simple icons navigating us through our smartphones to complex symbols representing abstract and diffuse ideas. The shift from the world-as-a-text to the world-as-an-image has undoubtedly benefited individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) who, it is argued, have stronger visual than auditory memory skills. Thus, rendering experience in a visual form gives them a way to employ their visual strengths to process, organise, memorise information in a much faster and more understandable way.