



ART & DESIGN

## Nicholas Kontaxis and his Work

By Jo Phillips





The paintings of Nicholas Knotaxis are making a profound mark on the art world: his solo shows have caught the keen eye of high-profile collectors, while Coachella and Adidas have come calling. Oh and he's only 23.

Following several sold-out shows all over the United States, Nicholas Kontaxis will show his work in London for the first time. An international exhibition is a major moment for the young painter. The milestone is all the more extraordinary when you learn that the 23 year-old moves with great difficulty and his speech is limited.

One wonders What would he say to the guests come to look at his vibrant, large-scale murals. Nicholas may not be able to speak or convey the 'meaning' of his paintings with ease. With limited speech and physical disabilities, his painting is language. The brush stokes on his canvas are his words, the spontaneous layers of paint are his inflections and punctuation marks. Compositions are usually a series of quick brushstrokes that are closely connected in a bold color scheme with elements that harmonize and give the viewer a sense of optimism and joy. He cannot form the words to convey the emotions, but he doesn't have to. He has created his own rule book and linguistic narrative.

