

STEPHEN WILTSHIRE

British Architectural Artist

"I am Stephen Wiltshire. I'm an artist, and I am very good. I love to make people smile. My art makes people happy, and it makes me happy. I have been drawing all my life. It helps me to communicate with others in a way that I could not verbally. My art is universal to all that makes me happy. I think I will continue to draw until the end of my time. I hope my work will continue to make everyone happy. Happy people, happy world! Do the best you can and never stop." Stephen Wiltshire



As a child, Stephen was mute and did not relate to other human beings. Aged three, he was diagnosed as autistic. He had no language, uncontrolled tantrums and lived entirely in his own world. At the age of five, Stephen was sent to Queensmill School in London, a school for children with special needs, where it was noticed that the only pastime he enjoyed was drawing. The teachers at Queensmill School encouraged him to speak by temporarily taking away his art supplies so that he would be forced to ask for them. Stephen responded by making sounds and eventually uttered his first word - "paper."

Stephen has traveled the world and exhibited on every continent, with thousands of people gathering to attend. In the 2001 BBC documentary, *Fragments of Genius*, Stephen was filmed flying over London aboard a helicopter and subsequently completing a detailed and perfectly scaled aerial illustration of a four-square-mile area within three hours; his drawing included 12 historic landmarks and 200 other structures. In October and November 2003, thousands flocked to the Orleans House Gallery in Twickenham near London, England, to see the first major retrospective of Stephen's work. More than 40,000 visitors attended the exhibit, shattering the gallery's attendance records. Stephen has drawn stunningly detailed panoramic landscapes, (following short helicopter rides) of Rome, Hong Kong, Frankfurt, Madrid, Dubai, Jerusalem, London, New York City, Tokyo, Kowloon in China, Brisbane, Singapore, Istanbul, Houston, Seoul, Mexico City, and Doha in Qatar, on giant canvasses.

In 2017 Stephen was commissioned to create a one-of-a-kind piece to be displayed at the Empire State Building. Following a 45-minute helicopter ride around Manhattan, he drew a cityscape on canvas with the Empire State Building as its centerpiece – live and from memory on the 80th floor of the Empire State Building. In 2019, the newly redesigned 80th-floor observatory of the Empire State Building in New York City³⁹ officially reopened with Stephen's design based on his panorama drawing of the city he created in 2017 in the very same building as part of his live drawing show. The \$165 million redevelopment also includes a new 10,000 sq ft museum space where visitors can purchase reproductions of his work.