

Swingin' Sam wings his way to London

During lockdown 14-year-old Poppy Rudge found herself painting in the garden shed at home in Branxton.

At first she experimented with acrylics by painting on stones before going on to create larger pictures on canvas and mdf, including one on board entitled 'Swingin' Sam' - in memory of her pet budgie.

"Of all her artworks, I thought it was particularly colourful and would make a good entry into Wooler's 1st Open Art Exhibition, held last November," says Poppy's mum, Sue.

Poppy was pleasantly surprised when she heard that it had been selected for display and was even more thrilled to receive a special mention at the launch of the inaugural exhibition as the youngest person to enter.

Encouraged by this the painting was then just a few clicks away from being submitted into the Young Artists' Summer Show at the Royal Academy of Arts (RA) in London. While the RA is famed for its Summer Exhibition - the oldest and largest open-submission art exhibition in the world - the Young Artists' Summer Show, for ages 4-19, is now in its fourth year.

Despite attracting over 21,000 submissions not only was 'Swingin' Sam' selected for inclusion online it will also be on display in Piccadilly from 19 July - 14 August. Poppy adds:



Poppy Rudge

"When I heard Sam had been selected I couldn't stop smiling - I simply couldn't believe it. Now I can't wait to go to London for the Private View."

"It just goes to show how local initiatives, such as Wooler Arts, can be a source of inspiration, empowering people to consider things they may never have done before," says Sue. "Thank you Wooler Arts."

www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/young-artists-summer-show-2022