

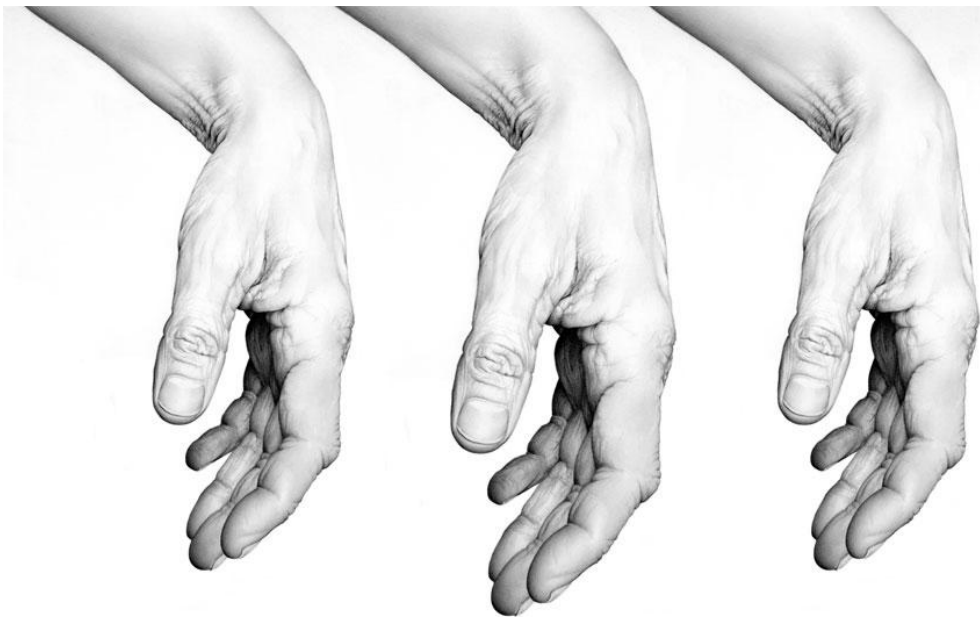


Cath Riley is an artist and illustrator from the UK. She creates highly detailed and hyper-realistic large-scale drawings of natural forms and people. Riley's monochromatic, hand-drawn artworks show subjects created in pencil with a wide range of tones to make her



Cath Riley is an artist and illustrator from Keighley in the UK, she was born in 1952. Riley is known for her attention to detail; drawing hyper-realistic artworks in pencil. Cath Riley's artworks are often on a large scale and she is inspired to draw different subjects, from famous people to still life objects and food.

What words could you use to describe her portrait drawings? Try to think of 5 different words.



Cath Riley's hand-drawn artworks have a depth and clarity that makes them look realistic. Riley is often inspired by natural or organic forms such as food and people, however she also chooses to draw still life objects like shoes, jewellery and household items. Riley focuses on small sections of the subjects she draws, making her work instantly recognisable.



Top facts about the artist Cath Riley:

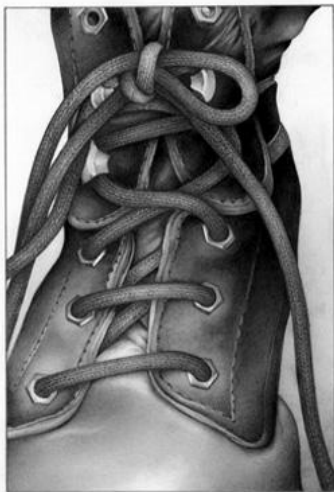
- Riley was born in 1952 and is from England.
- She is an artist and illustrator.
- Riley has a degree in Embroidery and a Masters Degree in Fine Art from Manchester Polytechnic.
- Her artwork is described as 'hyper-realist'.
- Cath Riley's artwork has been sold to different places including the Arts Council Collection, Granada Television, North West Arts, and Calderdale Museums & Galleries.
- Her drawings have also been sold to companies such as Nike and Adidas.
- Riley has won awards from The Society of Dimensional Illustrators', Yorkshire Arts, and from the Crafts Council.
- She is known for her drawings and illustrations but she has also made 3D sculptures which have sold around the world.



Cath Riley - *Hand and Hip* (24x15cm)

Look at the artwork above - which materials do you think Cath Riley has used to make her work? Why do you think she has focused on the hand next to the smooth skin?

Cath Riley's artworks have a realistic finish, but also a sense of fluidity through her use of smooth, gradual, soft shading and blending. All of the tiny features of the subjects she draws are shown with clarity across the tonal range, from the darkest tiny details to the lightest flecks. Riley makes use of monochromatic colour schemes and simple backgrounds in her work, drawing in the viewer to look closely at every detail.





Riley often works with a monochromatic colour scheme, using just blacks, whites and greys in her work. However, on a number of her food drawings Riley makes use of colour in a very simple but effective way. By adding a very small pop of colour to her pieces, Riley instantly draws the viewer's eye and adds a light-hearted touch to her works. By using a birds-eye view of her subject, and cropping them in a particular way, Riley is able to add balance and symmetry to her drawings. She also makes use of the Rule of Odds, having an odd number of subjects evenly spaced in her pieces. These are compositional tools often used in photography, which is perhaps why Cath Riley's work has been successfully used in advertising campaigns.

What do you think of Cath Riley artwork?

How could you describe it?

What themes can you see in the artworks?

Why do you think she has used a simple background in her artworks?

What words could you use to describe the food drawings?

Try to think of 5 different words.

Have a go at creating your own artwork inspired by Cath Riley.

