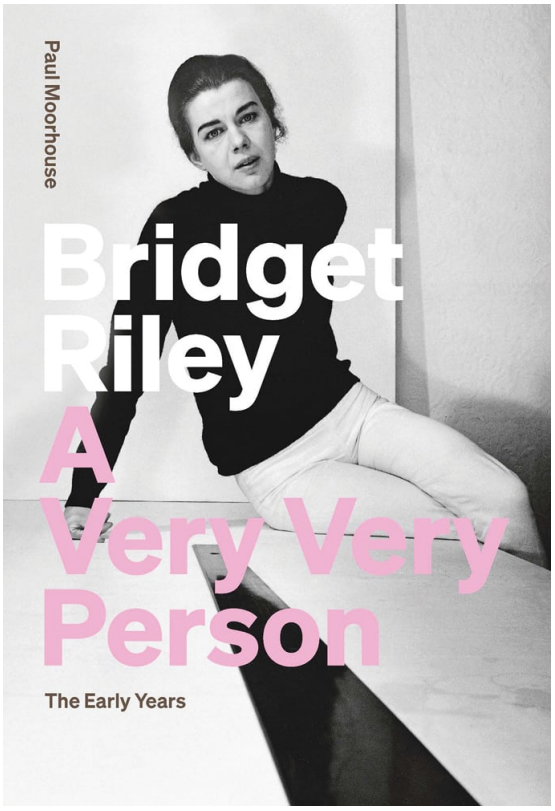
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Bridget Riley: A Very Very Person

The Early Years

Paul Moorhouse

ISBN	9781909932500
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Binding	Paperback / softback
Territory	World excluding USA & Canada
Size	224 mm x 147 mm
Pages	272 Pages
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Price	£20.00

- First biography of Bridget Riley, one of the most recognised artists of the 20th century
- Explores the false starts and obstacles Riley encountered before her sudden huge success in the 1960s
- New contributions to the scholarship on Riley and Op art, such as the influence of landscape on Riley's work

"'As Paul Moorhouse shows in this thorough and sensitive first biography, which concentrates on [Riley's] early years up to the age of thirty-four, it was only after many false starts, bracing shocks and firm decisions that Riley found her way as an abstract painter in the early 1960s with her eye-dazzling lines, squares, curves … in ultra-hard-edged black-and-white".–**Times Literary Supplement**

"In "Bridget Riley: A Very Very Person – The Early Years," Paul Moorhouse … homes in on the period between the artist's childhood and her earliest success, and makes a surprising but compelling case for the influence of landscape on Ms Riley's distinctive style."–**Wall Street Journal**

"An entertaining and informative text that adds greatly to our understanding of a very prominent and still highly intriguing British artist."–**Hyperallergic**

In January 1965 the international art world converged on New York to pay homage to a brilliant new star. The glittering opening of *The Responsive Eye*, a major exhibition of abstract painting at the Museum of Modern Art, signalled the latest phenomenon, op art – and its centre of attention was a young painter named Bridget Riley, whose dazzling painting *Current* appeared on the cover of the catalogue. Riley's first solo show in New York sold out, and, following a feature in *Vogue* magazine, the Riley 'look' became a fashion craze. Overnight, she had become a sensation, yet only three years earlier, she was a virtual unknown. How did success arrive so suddenly?

Authored by the acclaimed curator and writer Paul Moorhouse, ***A Very Very Person*** is the first biography of Bridget Riley and addresses that tantalising question. Focusing on her early years, it tells the story of a remarkable woman whose art and life were entwined in surprising ways. This intimate narrative explores Riley's wartime childhood spent in the idyllic Cornish countryside, her subsequent struggles to find her way as an artist, and the personal challenges she faced before finally arriving as one of the world's most celebrated artists in Swinging Sixties London.

Paul Moorhouse is an art historian and curator. He was Senior Curator at the National Portrait Gallery, London (2005–17) and Senior Curator at Tate, London (1985–2005), where he curated a major Bridget Riley retrospective exhibition in 2003. Recent books include *Cindy Sherman* (2014), *Bridget Riley: From Life* (2010), the award-winning *Gerhard Richter: Painting Appearances* (2009), *Pop Art Portraits* (2007) and *Richard Long: Walking the Line* (2003).

Bridget Riley was born in 1931 in London, UK, and studied at Goldsmiths College (1949–52) and Royal College of Art, London (1952–55). She initially came to prominence as part of the Op art movement in the early 1960s and has been exhibiting internationally since 1962. She has had notable solo at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, Serpentine Gallery, London, and Tate Britain, London. Riley was made a CBE in 1974, appointed the Companion of Honour in 1999, and received the Kaiser Ring of the City of Goslar in 2003. She currently lives and works in London.







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