Text accompaniment to “Circles”, a knock off of the “well-known” work of art “Composition with Circles” by Bridget Riley

This composition was created using Circlesville of Gargoyle, version Beta

Biography

“For me nature is not landscape, but the dynamism of visual forces.” – Bridget Riley

Taken from artinthepicture.com

Bridget Louise Riley was born on April 24, 1931 in London (UK). Bridget was educated at Cheltenham Ladies' College; she studied art first at Goldsmiths College and later at the Royal College of Art, where her fellow students included artists Peter Blake and Frank Auerbach. In the late 1950s, Riley began to produce works in a style recognisably her own, a style inspired by a number of sources, pointillism of Georges Seurat, black and white paintings by Victor Vasarely, and futuristic artist Giacomo Balla.

It was during this time that Riley began to paint the black and white works for which she is best known today. They present a great variety of geometric forms that produce sensations of movement or colour. In the early 1960s, her works were said to induce sensations in viewers as varied as seasickness and sky diving.

Although remembered today mainly for the impressions of movement and colour they give through the exploitation of optical illusions, it is speculated that the impetus for Riley making these seemingly cold and calculated works was a failed love affair.

Description of Image

Riley’s composition is a simple black and white picture of overlapping circles. While it appears as if the circles overlap in an odd way, the eye focuses enough to make it seem as if there is a specific pattern that Riley had in mind when creating the image.

Abstract description of image reproduction process

In order to reproduce a mock version of the image, I began by making a circle that was enlarged three times its size, drawn out in a black line, and shrunk back to its original
size. Once I had the circles defined, I then made a simple row of overlapping circles in a horizontal line. Once the row had been made, I marked it as row1 for combining with other rows in the program. Then, I copied the row overlapping the top and bottom of row1. This created three rows of overlapping horizontal circles, similar to the overlapping processes undergone through Riley’s composition. I repeated this process, overlapping rows on the top and bottom in the image until I had created seven rows. Once I had seven rows made, I combined all rows into one action, creating the image all at once.