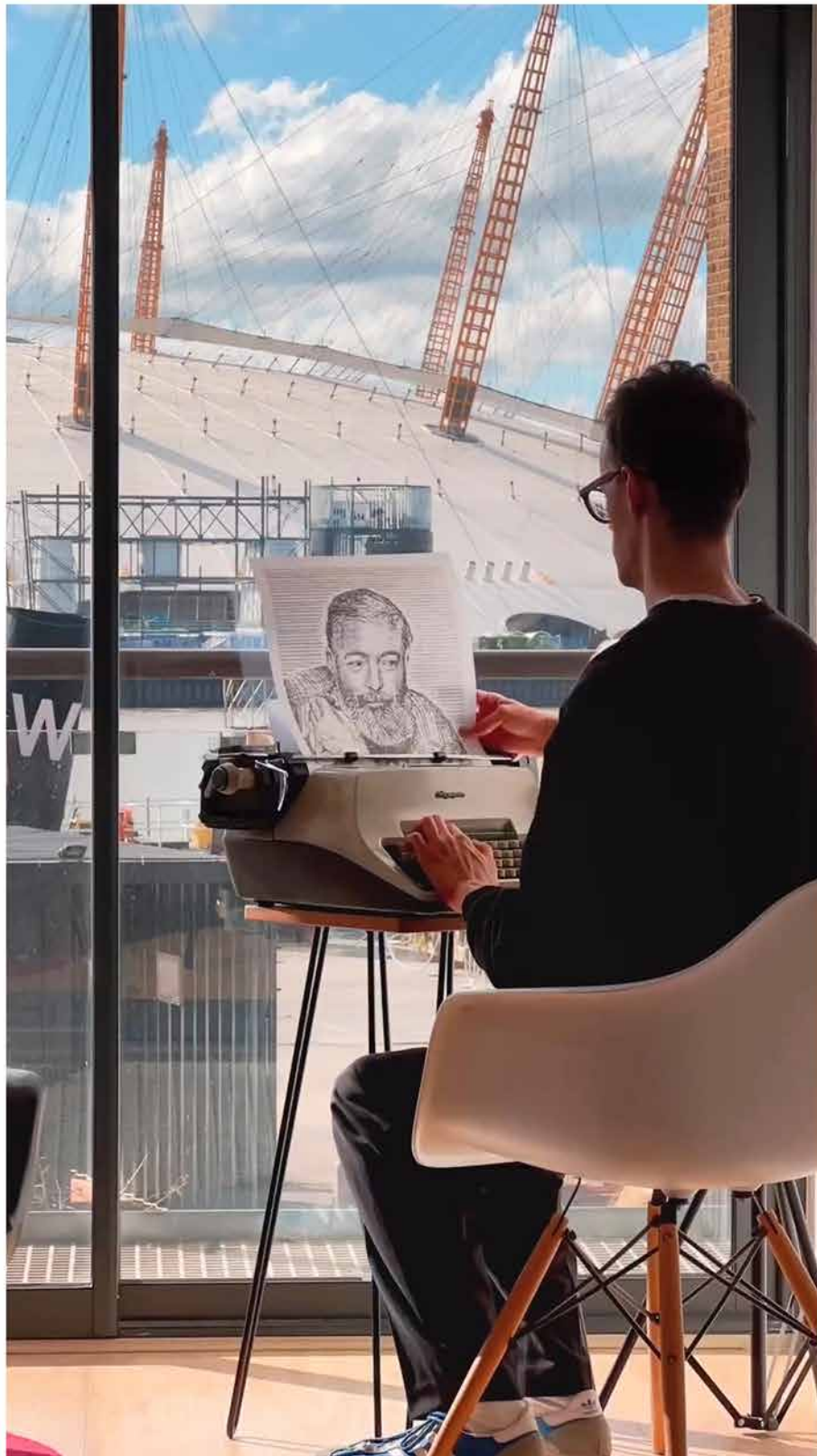


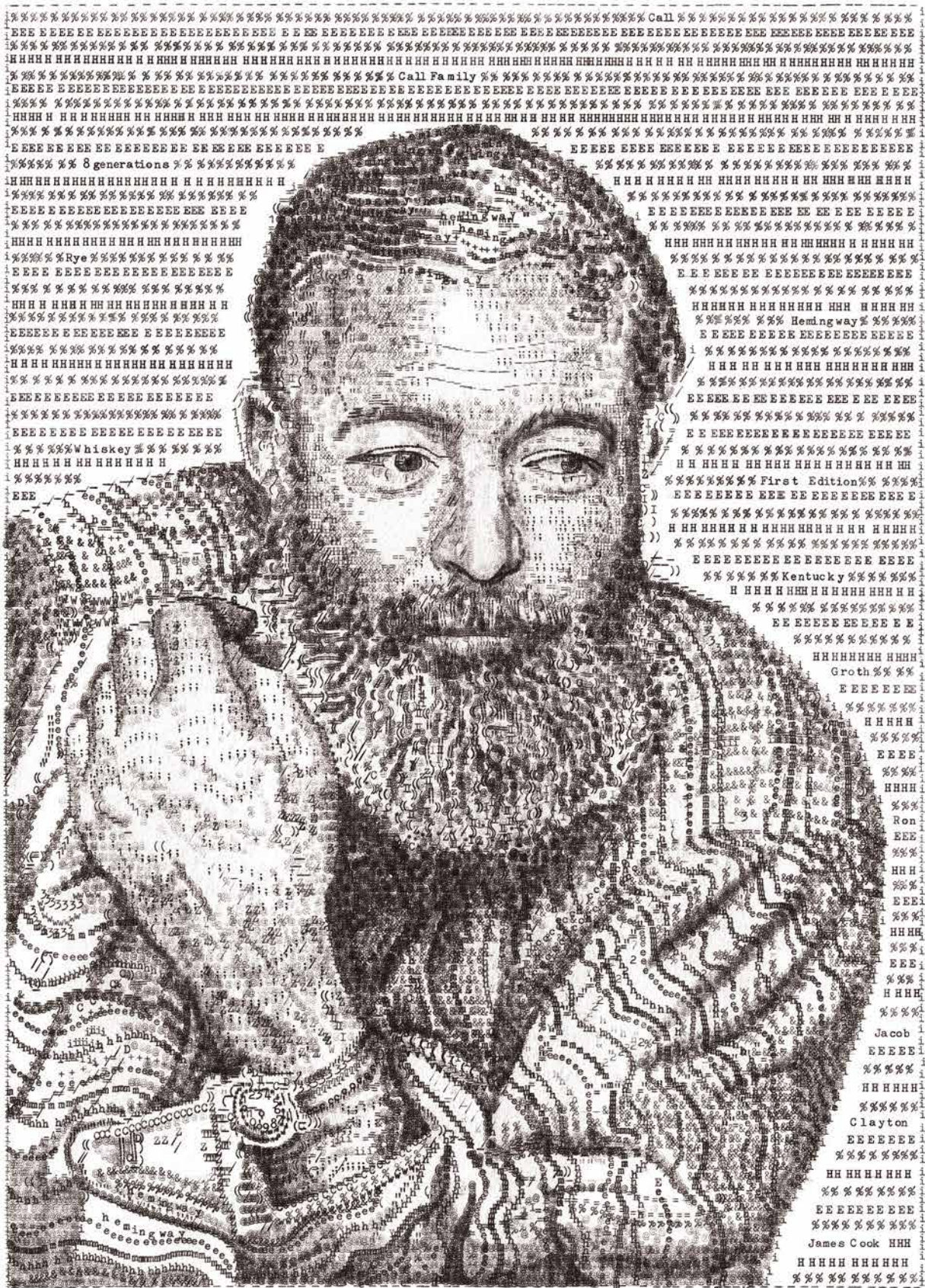




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2022 Typewriter Art on-location around London



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This 25-year-old artist creates incredible drawings on a typewriter



James Cook poses for a photograph in his art studio in South East London. - Thomas HALL/REUTERS

He began creating typewriter art in 2014, when he discovered the work of Paul Smith, an American typewriter artist from the 1920s.

"It was just out of curiosity that I decided to go buy my own typewriter," explains Cook from his London studio.

"Since then, I have learned little by little to draw," he adds.

He has now built a following of more than 20,000 supporters on Instagram where he posts photos and videos of his work.



James has been creating typewriter art from his studio in East London at Trinity Buoy Wharf since 2022

James Cook
Typewriter Artist

A picture worth a thousand words

Mona Lisa? She's just my type

Artist recreates Da Vinci's masterpiece... on an old typewriter



Work in progress: Mona Lisa being typed on the Olympia

Daily Mail Reporter

HE is hardly the first artist to take on the task of recreating Leonardo da Vinci's most famous masterpiece.

But in James Cook's unusual version, the eyes – or rather 'I's – really do follow you around the room, as, appropriately, do the letters M, O, N and A.

For Mr Cook, 26, produced his Mona Lisa on an old typewriter. It is made up of 100,000 written marks, mainly the letters found in the name Mona but also numbers and punctuation symbols.

Mr Cook, of Braintree, Essex, who has been creating typewriter art for nine years, said: 'I spent three weeks working on this specific piece.'

'It's one of the largest portraits I have done so far. It's around 60cm by 45cm without being on the frame and one of my favourite pieces I have done so far.'

'I'm impressed with the results, especially with how the draped fabrics turned out, because I knew this would be really difficult to recreate.'

He used an Olympia machine dating from the 1960s, part of a collection of 70 typewriters he has amassed.

Yet he had no interest in typewriters – once a common sight and sound in every office but long since replaced by computer keyboards and screens – until he was completing an A-level art project.



Intricate: It takes several layers of type to create the details in the features, clothing and scenery

'I was looking into David Hockney's art, where he used a fax machine,' he said. 'However I couldn't get hold of a fax machine, so I turned to typewriters, and that's where it all started.'

'I did one or two drawings with

the typewriter and realised how fun it was, so I started posting my creations anonymously to see what kind of reception they'd get.'

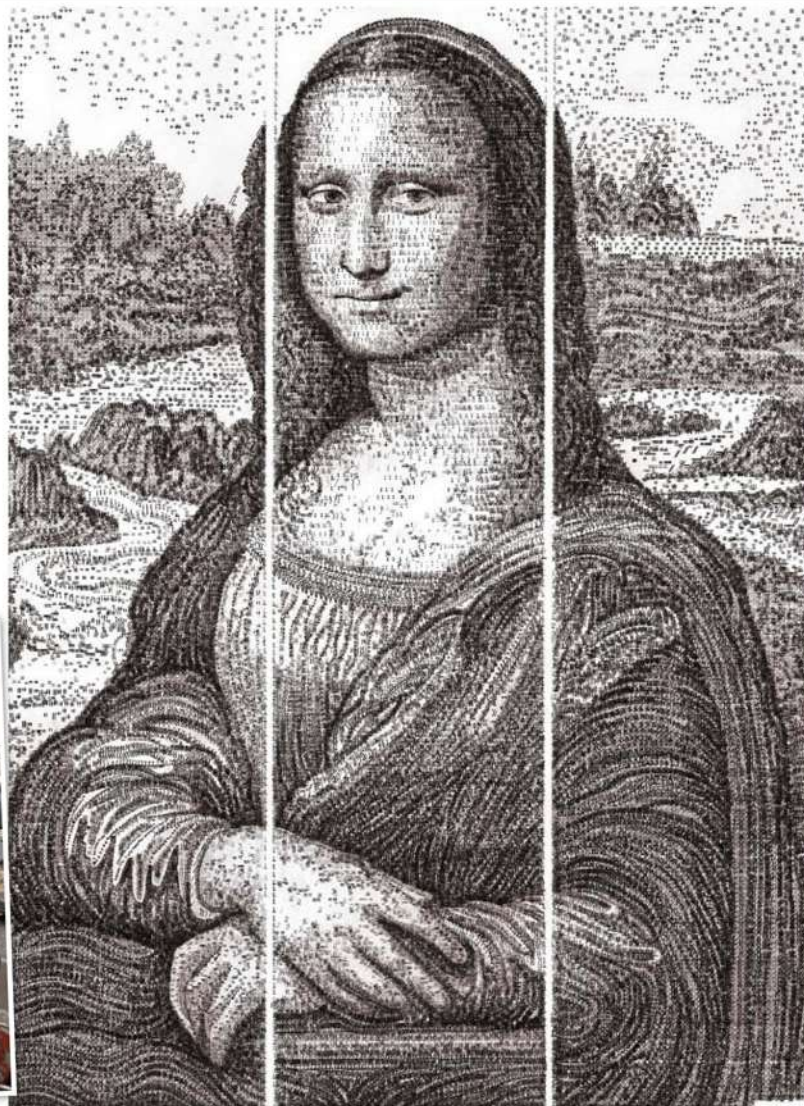
'It turns out they were really popular. I went on to study architecture at university but kept my



Painting by letters and numbers: Mr Cook with the work and another typewriter

typewriter art as almost a part-time job. But after I graduated, I decided I'd focus on that and just kept going.'

'Typewriter art isn't just about typing on the page once. There are lots of overlapping marks to build



Picture worth thousands of words: James Cook's 100,000-symbol version of Leonardo's 1503 oil portrait

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up the tones on the drawings. Depending on the size of the piece, it can take anywhere from four to five days up to two months.'

He began copying famous paintings in September and describes each of his artworks as 'a picture worth a thousand words'.

Mr Cook, who sells prints of his work via jamescookartwork.com, has an exhibition at Moot Hall in Maldon, Essex, until April 30.



2023 Typewriter Art Performance from Royal Albert Hall

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