

## New perspectives

## Artist Nettie Wakefield is reminding us to appreciate the beauty in the everyday

Words by Lucy Frith

The London-based artist Nettie Wakefield enjoys pushing perceptions of the ordinary. She works predominantly with pencil, creating detailed, hyper-realistic drawings that express a playful curiosity about the world that we might otherwise take for granted.

Wakefield's *The Beauty in the Ordinary* series, for instance, captures crumpled cigarette packets, discarded sweet wrappers, an ashtray and even a bin bag in the most intricate pencil and watercolour works.

"I like the idea that you can make a beautiful drawing of something that is considered gross," says Wakefield. "It's [putting] a lens on something that is not very aesthetically pleasing and putting it in a context where it is." Featuring well-known brands and objects also adds a pull of nostalgia. "Brands change all the time," she says. "It becomes a sort of time capsule."

Most recently, she has worked with the chef and restaurateur Mark Hix, creating beautifully detailed drawings of fish and sea life for his book *Hooked*, and the pair are about to collaborate on a small exhibition with London's Soho House group. This year Wakefield is also included in the toy brand Mattel's 80th anniversary group exhibition in LA at the Corey Helford Gallery (featuring a floating Barbie head), and will host a series of drawing workshops in London.

"I do sometimes wonder if I was born ten years later, whether I'd have the patience for art," Wakefield says. "You have to give yourself time," she adds. As her work attests, it is worth the wait.

[nettiewakefield.net](http://nettiewakefield.net)

Nettie Wakefield's intensely detailed pencil drawings inspire interest in everyday objects and uncover beauty in the otherwise unappealing

