# Artist captures Star Wars galaxy on used tea bags with glowing lightsabers



An artist based in Waterlooville, Hampshire, has created a remarkable series of artworks on used tea bags, drawing inspiration from the beloved Star Wars franchise. Caroline West, 50, has depicted a variety of iconic characters and scenes, including Luke Skywalker, Chewbacca, and R2-D2, on this unconventional canvas.

West began her artistic endeavour with a collection of 30 miniature paintings, each requiring three to four hours to complete. With a fondness for the film "Return of the Jedi," she sought to showcase the diversity and vastness of the Star Wars universe, stating, “I wanted to see exactly how many different things I could capture on such a small canvas and show you can even fit a whole galaxy on a tea bag.” Her statement reflects her intention to celebrate the franchise as "iconic" and "ground-breaking."

The process of creating these artworks involved several intricate steps. West first dried out used Yorkshire Tea tea bags, meticulously removing the existing tea before ironing them flat. The bags were then taped and mounted on backing paper, after which she applied a base layer followed by acrylic paint to bring her visions to life.

One notable aspect of her work includes her approach to painting lightsabers, which she describes as a “real symbol of the whole franchise.” She achieved the effect of glowing lightsabers by layering white paint under colours, a technique that rendered them particularly striking. Replicating Princess Leia presented a unique challenge, pushing her artistic boundaries since she had previously not focused extensively on portraits or faces. “When you were a girl and the films came out, we all wanted to be Princess Leia... I really enjoyed painting her,” West said.

West’s creativity extends beyond the visuals; she has also infused humour into her titles, crafting puns such as R2tea2, Brewbacca, and Tea3PO, creatively merging the characters' identities with her medium. To ensure recognisability, she studied images and watched scenes from the films, aiming to resonate with fellow fans. Notably, her series also includes characters from the newer Star Wars movies, such as Kylo Ren.

Having begun her exploration of tea bag art in August 2023, with initial works focusing on UK landmarks, West expresses excitement about her artistic growth. “It’s such an amazing feeling to have branched out to painting things I once thought were never possible to capture on such a tiny canvas,” she remarked, highlighting her evolving confidence as an artist.

Her Star Wars-inspired tea bag art, described as fan art, forms a limited collection that can be viewed on her website. West’s innovative blend of passion for the iconic franchise and a unique medium has captured the attention of audiences, celebrating both nostalgia and creativity.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2025-02-14/artist-captures-magic-of-harry-potter-and-the-lord-of-the-rings-on-used-tea-bags> - This article discusses Caroline West's creation of miniature paintings on used tea bags, featuring characters and scenes from the Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings franchises, highlighting her inspiration and artistic process.
2. <https://www.the-independent.com/news/uk/home-news/artist-hampshire-yorkshire-tea-jk-rowling-b2698152.html> - This piece details Caroline West's artistic journey, including her choice of medium, the subjects she paints, and her motivation to transform discarded items into art.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c134kx4py0jo> - This article provides insight into Caroline West's technique of painting on used tea bags, including her process of drying, flattening, and painting, as well as her choice of subjects like British landmarks.
4. <https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2024-07-09/artist-paints-on-used-teabags-to-create-uk-landmarks> - This report covers Caroline West's initiative to paint famous UK landmarks on used tea bags, emphasizing her commitment to sustainability and the unique medium she employs.
5. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2l375jrdlo> - This article highlights Caroline West's tribute to the Sycamore Gap tree, showcasing her ability to capture iconic British landmarks on used tea bags.
6. <https://www.carolouiseart.com/product/the-white-cliffs-of-dover> - This page features Caroline West's painting of the White Cliffs of Dover on a used tea bag, exemplifying her unique art style and subject matter.
7. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/artist-paints-out-of-this-world-star-wars-inspired-scenes-on-used-tea-bags-GSTCXLDXTFPIHHLM64422VGTHI/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data