

Sally Mann was born in 1951 in Lexington, Virginia. As an artist, she is best known for her black and white photographs portraying life in the American South often in a dark tone. Mann received her BA and MFA from Hollins College in the 1970s. Some of her projects include her book *At Twelve*, filled with photographs depicting 12 year old girls and “Dream Sequence”, which focuses on the psychology of relationships.

Controversy surrounding her work began in 1992 with the release of a photo series entitled “Immediate Family.” This series was made up of portraits of her three children nude in disturbing postures, situations, and settings. Mann defended her work stating “many of these pictures are intimate...but most are of ordinary things every mother has seen. I take pictures when they are bloodied or sick or naked or angry.”

Mann worked with great attention to detail. She would mentally sketch out her photographs before shooting and made extensive manipulations while developing them. Her later works include landscapes, documentation of her husband's progressing muscular dystrophy, and a series of photographs entitled, “What Remains,” which focused on death and decomposition of the human body.

Today, Sally Mann resides in Virginia and most recently released *Hold Still: A Memoir with Photographs* in 2015, which received the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Nonfiction.