

**CHIAROSCURO**  
**At Tadhg Mae Projects**  
**George Street, Hastings Old Town**

**Exhibition Preview**  
**March 29th 3pm-5pm**  
**Exhibition runs until May 27th**

**Two Sussex artists explore the haunting contrasts of Hastings' coastline**

CHIAROSCURO noun kē-,är-ə-'skyuŕ-(,)ō

: pictorial representation in terms of light and shade without regard to colour

: the interplay or contrast of dissimilar qualities (as of mood or character)

: the quality of being veiled or partly in shadow

Britain's coastline is clash of contrasts. And in Hastings, perhaps, these contrasts are at their most acute. The whiteness of a winter moon, the dark waves beneath. The depths of an indigo ocean, the wide open emptiness of a clear blue sky.

Closer, on the shingle, seagulls gleefully smash crabs on rocks while children splash in the shallows. The grinning heads of dead dogfish litter the beach, and ghost nets hang under the pier, while visitors sit above laughing and eating their fish and chips.

Chiaroscuro sees two Sussex artists exploring these contrasts.

Claudia De Grandi looks out to sea. She sketches and paints emotion; her mark-making is light while the colours run deep. Her ethereal works exist outside the conventions of time and place, opening up and meditating on the viewer's mind-scapes. Through her sensitive depictions of sky and horizon, she takes us to a place of introspection.

Paul Hitchcock turns his lens on the beach. Hastings fishing beach, where life meets death, old meets new, and heritage meets the current day.

This is a place where you can bruise toes in the shingle, listen to the wailing of the gulls, taste the salt and smell the marine diesel of a newly returned boat, but it is the imagery that will live with you; the deep shadows behind the sheds in stark contrast to the sun flares between the fishing flags, monochromatic hulls providing a backdrop to multi-coloured plastic, brown shingle contrasting against a deep green sea.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**Claudia De Grandi** was born in Brazil. She has lived in the UK for over 35 years and currently working from her studio in Hastings, East Sussex. She studied at the University of the Arts Camberwell London, where she attained an MA degree.

De Grandi's artistic journey stems from a classical musical education and was further shaped by the Japanese influence on Brazilian modernism. Primarily working with oils, she also explores mixed media to convey specific themes. Her Brazilian heritage, combined with her experiences in the UK, forms the foundation of her distinctive and evocative art, which continues to captivate and inspire audiences.

**Paul Hitchcock** is a self-taught adventurer, photographer, and writer. He was born and bred in Sussex and currently lives on a hill overlooking the eastern end of the Downs. He has had exhibitions in Brighton, Eastbourne and Hastings and provided lead input into a book documenting Brighton Pride.