



### ***Seven Year Itch***

A retrospective of Charlotte Stephen's paintings  
3 October – 29 November  
St Mary in the Castle

Exhibition opened by The Mayor of Hastings, Councillor Bruce Dowling, Friday 2 October, 6.00pm.

Charlotte Stephens was born in Bath in 1983 and moved to Hastings when she was nine. Born into a family of artists (her Mother's cousin is Mick Moon the Royal Academician) Stephens has enjoyed making art since she was a child.

Stephens is a member of Project Art Works' Mentoring Studios which she attends every week. This exhibition presents a selection of the work she has produced within the studio in the last seven years. Over this period Stephens' has continuously developed and refined her painting technique and in doing so has overcome many challenges in her life. This is an achievement that she is extremely proud of. She chooses subjects for her paintings that reflect her interests and the community that she lives within. Her paintings have included family portraits, significant buildings, local festivals, nature and animals. An underlying theme in her work is the rhythms of nature and cycles of the calendar.

Making art has allowed Stephen's to focus her energies in a way that has had a positive effect on her life:

*"When I get in the mind of painting – I can do anything"* Charlotte Stephens, 2015

Established over fifteen years ago, Project Art Works is a pioneering organisation using contemporary visual art to facilitate the making of paintings, drawings, sculpture and photography, artistic happenings and actions in the studio and at site-specific locations by adults and children with severe neurological impairment. [projectartworks.org](http://projectartworks.org) the organisation's new website launched in September 2015.

**For interview requests, images and further information please contact Matthew Pitts on [matthew@projectartworks.org](mailto:matthew@projectartworks.org) or 01424 423555 (Monday – Thursday only).**

### **Notes To Editors**

*Seven Year Itch*, Charlotte Stephens  
3<sup>rd</sup> October – 29<sup>th</sup> November  
St Mary in the Castle, 7 Pelham Crescent, Hastings, TN34 3AF  
Open Tuesday – Sunday  
Opening times: 10am – 6pm  
Admission Free.

For further information see: [www.stmaryinthecastle.co.uk](http://www.stmaryinthecastle.co.uk)

**Project Art Works** is a visual arts organisation that conducts a wide range of projects with people who have complex needs and those that support them. Project Art Works initiates responsive, collaborative projects between artists, galleries and other cultural organisations, and children and adults who have severe neurological impairment, with their families and the services, professionals and processes that surround them. Their work utilises knowledge and sensitivity to the ethical issues arising from the inclusion of people who cannot knowingly consent to their involvement in art and culture.

Project Art Works was founded by visual artist Kate Adams whose experience as the mother of a man with complex needs is central to the organisation's responsive and informed approach. Adams is a Court of Protection appointed Deputy to her son in matters of Property and Affairs as well as Health and Personal Welfare (fewer than 1000 deputyships have been appointed in the UK since the 2008 Mental Capacity Act). She and her family run a personalised provision for her son employing seven support workers. Adams' approach to the navigation of social care and advocacy is that knowledge is power and informed diplomacy the most effective means of achieving quality of life for people with complex needs and their families. In 2012 she was awarded an MBE for services to art and disability. She is the director of Project Art Works and maintains an artistic practice encompassing video, installation, construction and drawing.

Project Art Works, Arch 3, Braybrooke Terrace, Hastings, Sussex TN34 1TD. Telephone 01424 423555 [www.projectartworks.org](http://www.projectartworks.org) (new website launches September 2015).

Images, left to right: *An Eagle Owl*, Charlotte Stephens; *Portrait of Tiggy*, Charlotte Stephens, *My Mum*, Charlotte Stephens. Images Courtesy Project Art Works.