

# CREAM *of the* COAST

*Steven Hall* meets with Grantly Lynch and takes a look at his stunning photography of the coast from the shores of West Sussex and Hampshire, then travels to South Devon to take a look at the recently opened bangwallop Gallery in Salcombe



The crew of bangwallop



Above: Grantly Lynch

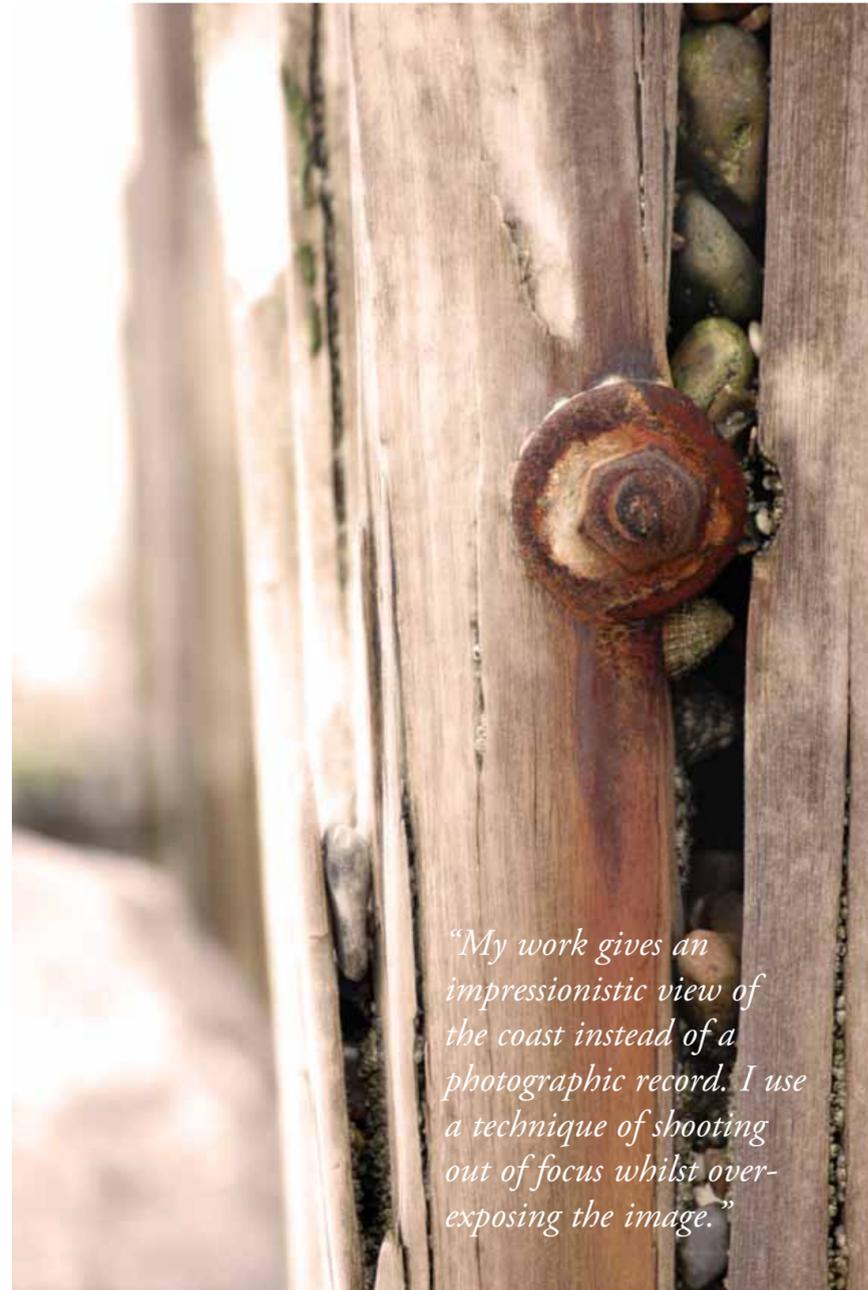
**This page:** Seafront, Hayling Island;  
**Next page:** Sandy Point, Chichester Harbour

**A** DREAMLIKE QUALITY WITH THE FEEL OF A WATERCOLOUR is how Grantly Lynch's photography has been described. Grantly specialises in coastal photographic art, mostly taken along the shores of West Sussex and Hampshire. The stunning images stand out by capturing the feel of being by the sea, rather than a direct representation of it. "My work gives an impressionistic view of the coast instead of a photographic record. I use a technique of shooting out of focus whilst over-exposing the image." This unique interpretation sets Grantly's work apart from other more literal photography of the shoreline, elevating it to the level of highly personal photographic art.

"Clients tell me they like choosing a coastal scene that is atmospheric. No other photographer on the south coast is exploring this style on a commercial basis, so people choosing my work will have a piece of photographic art that takes a highly personal and individual approach. Some of the images convey an ethereal style - children playing in the distance, the sea shimmering around a yacht - which draws you in to the beauty and simplicity of the coast."

Inspired by the coastal areas of West Wittering, Emsworth, Chichester and beyond, Grantly has created an online gallery of his photography. The Harbour Company specialises in his individual coastal prints from the surrounding area, reflecting his interest in the south coast.

Grantly says he has always loved the Chichester Harbour environment, a sentiment that is shared by many others. "It's satisfying to turn my creative interest into a commercial venture. There has been a lot of interest from people in London who travel down at weekends to enjoy the coast, as well as people who live here who want contemporary prints of the harbour."

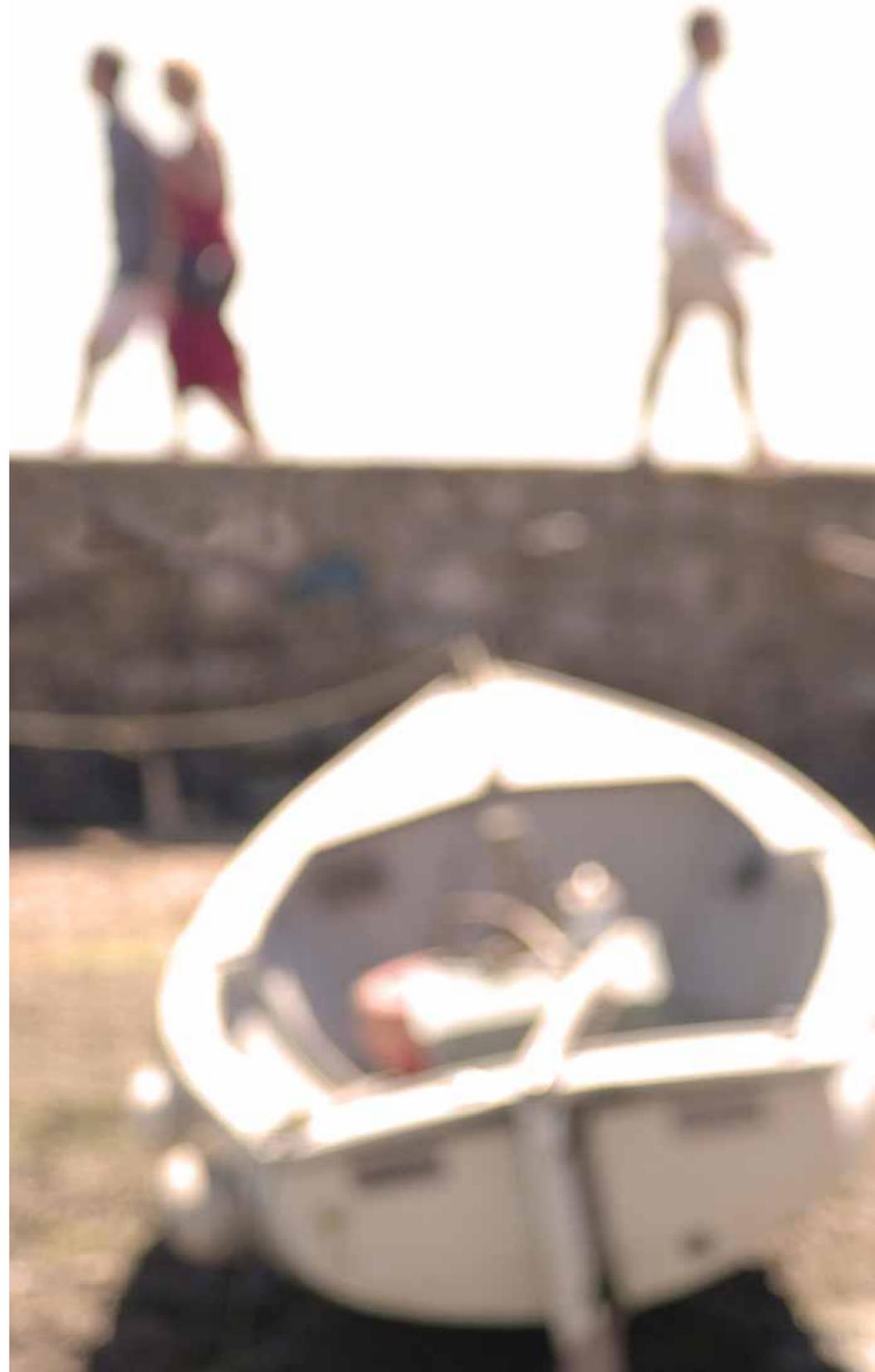


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Summer afternoon, Emsworth Harbour



The collection includes artistic shots of boats, sea birds and shoreline details. Grantly captures the artistry of boats moored in the harbour and yachts skimming the water, some are bathed in a dreamlike haze, others are in sharp focus, cutting through the choppy sea. There are blurry shots of couples in the distance and solitary dog walkers, children playing and gulls swooping.

The shoreline collection features more distinct images of ropes, markers and wood: "Some of my work explores how the sea erodes manmade objects in and around the coast. I've produced a collection of 'cameos' that focus tightly on objects distressed and worn by the tide."

A recent collection taken at East Head incorporates the style of early American monochrome landscape photography, combining it with a contemporary graphic feel. Across the collections, the watercolour palette ranges from aquamarine to moody and stormy shades of blue to washed out layers of slate, misty blurs of grey, through to more dramatic monochromes where the dazzle of the sun on the sea contrasts with silhouettes of boats, gulls, people and dogs on the shore.

Grantly's love of the area around Chichester Harbour shines through in his work. "I get my inspiration from the natural simplicity of the local area. The views are stunningly beautiful and provide the scope to create something wonderful that captures the essence of the area." The images convey a strong sense of place, rather than being among the more anonymous and ubiquitous coastal scenes that fail to inspire or draw the viewer in to the feeling of being beside the water.

**ADVERT**



East Head, West Wittering

*The gallery offers a collection of canvas mounted images, framed and signed prints and a selection of coastal greeting cards.*

A freelance photographer since 1990, Grantly was born in London and after studying art and design he went on to study photography at the Royal College of Art. He has worked with many commercial clients and created UK Stock Images Ltd. Grantly lives with his wife Lara and their two daughters on the south coast.

"People approach me for commissions, taken around the coastal areas. There is a growing trend for people to move away from the usual staged photographs to ones of them or their children enjoying the outdoors. It's done in a subtle way so they know the images are of them, but it isn't obvious, which appeals to a lot of people. You benefit from having a highly personal piece of photographic art."

The Harbour Company is an online gallery reflecting his interest in the British coast. He hopes to add other artist's work to the collection. The gallery offers a collection of canvas mounted images, framed and signed prints and a selection of coastal greeting cards.

All the pictures can be produced on a contemporary canvas mount, constructed with a wooden frame with bevelled edges to prevent cracking. A textured semi-matt canvas is stretched over the frame and it is finished in the traditional way. Alternatively, prints are produced on high quality archival photographic paper and supplied in a hand cut bevel mount board. Frames are made to order and clients can select them to display their Harbour Company prints. All images are hand signed by the artist. Greetings cards are litho printed on textured art paper, and supplied with envelopes.

The selection of prints is available to view at [www.theharbourcompany.co.uk](http://www.theharbourcompany.co.uk).

**ADVERT**



**This page:** Westcombe Bay, South Devon by David Clapp; **Previous page:** Lost Village of Hallsands by Nick Shepherd

**A** PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS - or so the saying goes - and, as the images on the following pages will testify the old adage still holds true. Real style and class are immediately evident even to the untrained eye, and the quality of craftsmanship as illustrated in these stunning images from the Bangwallop stable, is a good case in point. Rarely, if ever, is original work of this stature seen outside London; it is testimony to the creative team behind Bangwallop, that the exhibition organisers chose this innovative gallery as their first port of call in the provinces.

It is clear to see why. Bangwallop is housed in 2000 square feet of waterside industrial building which has been transformed - the minimalist interior encompasses a gallery with shopping, drinks bar and 3 studios dedicated solely to the art of photography.

These truly awesome photographs are taken from the opening exhibition of Bangwallops new photographic gallery in the famous resort of Salcombe in South Devon. They prove once again, if proof were needed, that photography can and does carry a powerful message which stirs the emotions and speaks to the soul in just the same manner as any great work of art.

August bank holiday by Rich Hendry

Originally on display at Londons National Theatre, Southbank, these images are from the Take A View exhibition, a UK nationwide competition to find the Landscape Photographer of the 2007. With a £20,000 prize and an exacting panel of judges including Bill Bryson, Charlie Waite and the Sunday Times picture editor Monica Allende, the bar was pretty high.

The exhibition was an inspired choice for Bangwallop and set the standard for future exhibitions. With a discerning clientele who year upon year choose to summer in this exclusive enclave, Bangwallop is proving to be a must-stop visit for anyone with a mind, or more importantly, an eye to acquiring some serious photographic art. Based in the heart of Salcombe's emerging arts quarter, Bangwallop is a constantly evolving exhibition space that showcases the work of internationally acclaimed photographic artists as well as providing a backdrop for emerging photographers; a 'viewing pod' offers a virtual gallery for clients to access and contemplate the bangwallop collections and commissioned works.

Bangwallop studios are home to founder and principal photographer Lorna Yabsley, an acclaimed photographer in her own right. In addition to the exclusive gallery and exhibition space and with a 'nod and a wink' to the holiday

market, Studio 1, on the ground floor, houses the bangwallop 'funography zone' – an experimental photography zone which caters to the beautiful young things who flock to Salcombe every year in search of the good life. With a resident make up artist to transform and a selection of funky and imaginative props which sees the return of saucy seaside screen, a cool squashy leather sofa for relaxed family sittings and a suspended Perspex bubble chair - this is photography to engage and involve.

**bangwallop**

2, Island Square  
Island St  
Salcombe  
Devon  
TQ8 8DP

Tel: 01548 843100  
info@bangwallop.co.uk  
[www.bangwallop.co.uk](http://www.bangwallop.co.uk)

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