

Press release: April 2026

Janaina Tschäpe: Conversations with the sea

13 June – 13 September 2026



Janaina Tschäpe, *Meeresatem (Breathing the shore)*, 2025, oil and oil stick on linen, 218.8 x 406.7 cm.
Copyright Janaina Tschäpe. Courtesy of Rangda Productions.

Hastings Contemporary is excited to present the first major solo exhibition in a UK gallery of work by the leading German-Brazilian artist, Janaina Tschäpe. Filling Hastings Contemporary's largest gallery space, the exhibition features a dramatic new series of paintings and works on paper created by Tschäpe in direct response to her experience of visiting a wet and stormy Hastings in the winter of 2025. The works will be complemented by a film piece.

Speaking about the making of the show, Janaina Tschäpe explains: *“For this exhibition by the sea, I have been thinking about water not as image, but as force – as movement that folds, accelerates, disperses, and returns. Water organises space through rhythm rather than contour. It resists fixation.*

“The sea has always carried projection: solitude, longing, disappearance and myth. I am interested in that space not as narrative, but as atmosphere – as a psychological field where form dissolves and re-emerges. Memory, like the tide, is never still. It breathes the shore.”

Spending her formative years in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, Tschäpe, whose first name references the Brazilian sea goddess of the Candomblé religion, has always been captivated by

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the notion of the sea as a gateway to mystical realms. Offering forays into the geological state of the psyche, blending geographical, astronomical and intimately humane concerns, her resulting large-scale, semi-abstract landscapes provide extraordinary tapestries of forms and lines. Their strangely evocative organic motifs define her own idiosyncratic language.

For Tschäpe, working across oil, oil stick and watercolour in these expansive paintings, the dense band of extended horizon dividing sea from air holds a sense of compression and contained energy. The diluted pigments and choreographed marks used to express the rhythm and movement of waves, converge like sediment and contrast with the bands of zinc white used to portray the salt sea air above.

Speaking about the watercolour works, Janaina Tschäpe states: *“For me, the watercolours are less about describing the ocean than about entering into a dialogue with its movement. Across the works, drawing and gesture move like currents. The line attempts to hold structure; the brushstroke interrupts, dissolves, and redirects it. They overlap and resist each other, like tides meeting. The painting remains in tension – never fully resolved.”*

Spanning painting, drawing, photography, video, sculpture and performance, Tschäpe’s work draws on memory, sitting somewhere between abstraction and representation. By blending lyrical abstraction and environmental themes, Tschäpe offers a fresh perspective that bridges historical influences with post-modern sensibilities.

Kathleen Soriano, Director of Hastings Contemporary, notes: *“Janaina Tschäpe brings the swell of the English Channel and the immensity of the world’s oceans into the heart of Hastings Contemporary where its power and majesty fill the Foreshore Gallery with glorious colour, light and dynamic movement. Presented alongside Miguel Rothschild’s dramatic seascapes, our summer visitors can step straight off the beach and into the gallery to encounter two strikingly different visions of our seas.”*

The show is part of the summer season at Hastings Contemporary and will be on display alongside Miguel Rothschild and Moore / Freud.

NOTES TO EDITORS

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For images, interviews, and requests, please contact Celia Bailey, Arts PR & Development:
bailey_celia@hotmail.com | 07930 442 411

Hastings Contemporary is a bold, independent arts charity in the heart of Hastings Old Town. Through ambitious exhibitions, partnerships and events, the gallery brings world-class art to Hastings for the benefit of everyone. With a programme anchored in marine ecology, ocean futures and sustainable cultures, Hastings Contemporary brings together artists, scientists, fishing communities, and the public to explore new creative frontiers – all within an award-winning building on the town’s historic fishing beach.

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Visiting the gallery

Open Wednesday to Sunday and bank holidays, 11am to 5pm. Under 18s visit for free. Hastings and Rother residents can visit for half price, from just £5. Become a member for unlimited free visits, special invitations, discounts, and more, from just £32 a year.

Hastings Contemporary

Rock-a-Nore Road, Hastings, TN34 3DW
01424 728377 | hastingscontemporary.org



Janaina Tschäpe (b. 1973, Munich, Germany) lives and works in New York. She received her BFA from the Hochschule für bildende Künste, Hamburg, and her MFA from the School of Visual Arts, New York.

Solo exhibitions of her work have been presented at CAC Málaga, Málaga; Den Frie Center of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen; Contemporary Museum of Art, St. Louis; FRAC Champagne-Ardenne, Reims; Fundação Iberê Camargo, Porto Alegre; Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; Kasama Nichido Museum of Art, Kasama; Museum of Contemporary Art Tucson; Musée de l'Orangerie, Paris; and Sarasota Art Museum, Sarasota.

Tschäpe's work has also been featured in numerous group exhibitions, including at 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa; CCBB, Rio de Janeiro; Centre d'Art Contemporain de Normandie; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Cidade Matarazzo, São Paulo; Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, Belo Horizonte; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Guggenheim Museum Bilbao; National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.; and Whitechapel Gallery, London.

The artist's work is included in important public collections such as Centre Pompidou, Paris; Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; Harvard Art Museums, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Museu de Arte Moderna do Rio de Janeiro; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary, Vienna; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and Brooklyn Museum, New York.