

Pink Concrete photographic exhibition opens at Picnic

Hastings-based photographic artist and PhotoHastings member, Suzi Baker is invited to exhibit work in progress at Picnic gallery, Marine Court, St Leonards-on-Sea in East Sussex on June 27th, opens 6pm. Gallery is open Saturdays and Sundays 11-5.

Under the working title 'Pink Concrete', Suzi presents photographic images of concrete in nature and nature in concrete and examples of architectural design. Viewers are encouraged to contemplate the beauty of concrete and consider its future as a sustainable material.

Since December 2024, Suzi's photographic journey's taken her from her garden to Roman history and then on to the cusp of the future.

'Cracks in concrete caused by nature are visible everywhere. On a deeper level, these cracks can be a metaphor for the disconnect in dialogue between industry professionals and the public about the use of sustainable materials in architecture.' Suzi Baker comments.

Working in collaboration with architects since the 1990s has inspired Suzi to look more closely at concrete, commonly accepted as an essential building material that is heavy, ugly and inflexible. Gradually, her own views of the heaviness of concrete shifted during conversations with architects whilst taking their portraits. Suzi came to appreciate the positive attributes of concrete; that there is a beauty and symmetry in raw concrete that actually flows in harmony with and within nature. It was a revelation that she wanted to share, and as a professional photographer of architects, she decided to shift her focus to present a new portrait - that of concrete.

Recently there's been a 'rebirth of Brutalism' with important historic renovations such as the Space House and attractive new builds in raw concrete. Suzi wants to portray that the benefits of concrete can outweigh the negatives, by visually showing how soft and beautiful concrete's appearance can be, not just cold hard grey and intimidating. Even when used as 'raw' grey it can complement the natural environment.

Suzi thanks contributors to the project: *'My thanks to the generosity of senior city and coastal architects, Associate Director at ZHA, Bidisha Sinha and Senior Architect at Sheppard Robson, John Tygier, Directors and Founders of RIBA award-winning RX Architects, Rob Pollard and Derek Rankin, self-build owners Adrian and Megan Corrigan of the Concrete House in Sussex, fungal biodiversity specialist and lecturer, David Satori, Technical Manager at CEMEX UK, Richard Kershaw, Independent Chair of the Mineral Products Association (MPA) UK Concrete, Andy Spencer, Founder, Lazenby Contracts, Edward Lazenby, President and Fellow of the Concrete Society, Steve Thorpe, Chris Bunn of CGB Building and Carpentry Services, and many others. At every opportunity I have shared my thoughts with professionals and the public regarding a sustainable version of concrete involving nature, which I understand is already being tested by scientists.'*

The project name is inspired by a striking pink house at Camber Sands, 'Seabreeze' designed by RX Architects.

Visitors to the gallery will be invited to respond to the question *'What is your vision / version of concrete?'* to potentially be included in a forthcoming publication.

Please follow Picnic on Instagram for full details https://www.instagram.com/picnic_on_sea/.

Brutalist Concrete House in East Sussex designed by Adrian and Megan Corrigan in collaboration with architect Graeme Laughlan (then of RAW Architecture Workshop). Inspired by Mexican concrete villas and brutalist buildings such as London's Barbican. Resilia, durable anti-cracking concrete supplied by CEMEX. The material tested for thermal and structural properties by the University of Zurich - helping to minimise carbon footprint whilst reducing construction time and costs. Project featured on Channel Four's Grand Designs 2018/2021. Image copyright Suzi Baker, 2026.



Biography

Suzi Baker is a published professional editorial photographer (as Suzanne Grala) and artist drawn to portraiture and symmetry in nature and architecture. She discovered her passion for drawing and painting early in life, inspired by Man Ray, Georgia O'Keeffe, Impressionism and Cubism.

Suzi moved on to specialise in analogue colour and black and white photography, experimenting with all camera formats, studio photography, film processing and fine art printing from the late 1980s through to the 1990s.

Currently focusing on her personal practice, Suzi specialises in natural portrait photography on location, capturing orchestrated yet seemingly relaxed moments in time, and making brief observations of placed objects or surroundings in ambient light.

Suzi has been commissioned by publications, private companies and individuals across many sectors, and offers a catalogue of rights managed, health and lifestyle images for license on platforms such as Camera Press and the Science Photo Library.

Suzi Baker portrait above by Tim Nathan, Media 25 Studio, St Leonards-On-Sea.

Photographic Exhibitions

'PhotoHastings with London Independent Photography (LIP Crouch End), 'Wabi-Sabi 2025

PhotoHastings, Difference & Repetition and ROOTED 2024

Saatchi Online, Fuji/AoP 'Superstition' competition/exhibition at Association of 2007 2007 Photographers gallery

Association of Photographers Sports Show - portrait of Olympic heptathlon champion, Denise 2002 Lewis OBE

AoP New Members Exhibition in April 2001 (image published in 'Reality'/The Independent on 2001 Sunday)

BTEC Design Photography student exhibition at Photofusion, Electric Lane, Brixton 1999