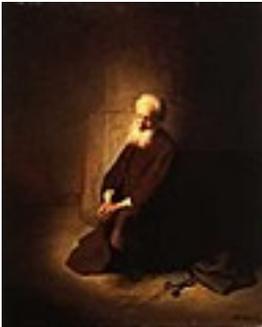


A DEMONSTRATION OF PAINTING IN OILS IN THE CHIAROSCURO (' LIGHT-DARK ') METHOD BY LOCAL AWARD-WINNING ARTIST KAY SPARKES



*St. Peter in Prison
by Rembrandt, 1631*



*Red Jug and Pears by
Kay Sparkes*

Chiaroscuro (Italian for 'light-dark'), in art, is the use of strong contrasts between light and dark, usually bold contrasts affecting a whole composition. It is also a technical term used by artists and art historians for the use of contrasts of light to achieve a sense of volume in modelling three-dimensional objects and figures. Similar effects in cinema and photography also are called chiaroscuro.

The underlying principle is that solidity of form is best achieved by the light falling against it. Artists known for developing the technique include Leonardo Da Vinci, Caravaggio, Vermeer, Goya and Rembrandt. It is one of the modes for painting colour in Renaissance art.

ABOUT KAY SPARKES

Kay was born and grew up on the land near Gulgong, Central Western NSW. Music has always been a major part of her life. When she moved to Sydney she worked in the music industry and sang professionally.

Kay moved to Maitland in 1996 where she began to explore her love of art and in 2006, friend and artist James Casey introduced her to canvas and oil and the use of the old master's techniques – light and shadow (**the chiaroscuro technique**). Kay loves painting and stuff we eat, touch and use everyday and those things become the subjects of her still life artworks.

Kay has won many prizes including the Maitland Art Prize and Newcastle Art Prize. Kay has also been a finalist in the Bowral, Hornsby and Mortimer Art Prizes and the prestigious EMSLA at Coffs Harbour.

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