

Maritime Art History For VCMMA Docents

The collection of paintings housed in the VC Maritime Museum offer county residents and visitors a unique opportunity to view original works by significant artists working in the maritime genre.

Among the 17th century Dutch painters in the Baroque Period who established the maritime genre with the low horizon, the effects of weather, ships in realistic detail, everyday people fishing and sailing are works by

Adam Willaerts (1577-1664)

Bonaventure Peeters (1614-1652)

Julius Porcellis (1610-1654)

Ludolph Bakhuysen (1630-1708)

Willem Van de Velde, the Younger (1633-1707) who, with his father Willem Van de Velde Senior, were hired by the English king to record his battles and subsequently established maritime painting in Great Britain.

Early 18th century English seascape painters, in the tradition established by their Dutch predecessors, are represented by the first generation of maritime artists:

Peter Monamy (1681-1749)

Thomas Luny (1759-1837)

John Christian Schetky (1778-1874)

And by the subsequent British artists:

Charles Brooking (1723-1759)

Richard Paton (1717-1790)

Charles Martin Powell (1776-1824)

Robert Salmon (1775-1844)

Thomas Buttersworth (1768-1842) Both Salmon and Buttersworth painted along the eastern coast of America and had a lasting influence on the local marine painters.

The Romantic Period, 1750-1850 is represented in the museum by the large size, grand canvases, pastel colors (pink and light blue) and the dramatic light of British painters:

John Wilson Carmichael (1800-1868)

Edward William Cooke (1811-1880)

Abraham Hulk (1813-1897) Dutch

Robert Salmon (1775-1844)

George Clarkson Stanfield (1793-1867)

Francis Swaine (c. 1715-1758)

George Webster (1775-1832)

Hermanus Koekkoek (1815-1882), a Dutch painter of dramatic, luminous skies.

Jan Van Os (1744-1808) a Dutch flower painter who also painted "waterscapes."

Twentieth Century Maritime Painters take a look back at clipper ships by **Montague Dawson (1895-1973)** and at New England fishing schooners by **Thomas Hoyne (1923-1989)**. Several painters made portraits of ships: **Antonio Jacobsen (1850-1921)**, **Charles Sidney Raleigh (1830-1925)** and **Louis Dodd (1943-2006)**. Englishman **Roy Cross (b. 1924)** paints historic American maritime scenes. Pacific north-west lumber schooners along the early California coast served a subject matter for the paintings by **David Thimgan (1955-2003)**.

Modern Watercolor painters include: Charles Dixon (1872-1934) and William Gilkerson (b. 1936) who painted the local wharf at Hueneme in the 1890's, as well as the image of the "Pilgrim." Bert Wright (b. 1930) serves as President of the American Society of Marine Painters and paints a wide variety of maritime subjects.

Ship Portraits: German immigrant Anton Otto Fischer (1882-1962) and Frank Hartman Wagner (1931-1996) both did commercial illustration. Wagner later painted portraits of New England yacht designers and owners on their famous ships.

Contemporary Painters: The renowned John Stobart (b. 1929) has three original paintings in the museum; one of the early California Vallejo Street Wharf, one of a sunrise over Nantucket and a third image of the traffic on the Thames River. Eccentric British painter John Bentham-Dinsdale (1927-2008) imitated the style of the Van de Veldes three hundred years after their demise.

New Directions: Christopher Blossom (b. 1956) and Don Demers (b. 1956) are currently establishing new directions in maritime and *plein air* (outdoor/on-site) painting. Mr. Pang Qi who painted the mural of China Alley in Ventura, donated his painting of the great Ming Dynasty Admiral Zheng He.

The museum's collection documents and illustrates four hundred years of maritime painting. We owe a debt of thanks to the Nelson Maritime Arts Foundation who has made it available to us all.

Jacquelyn Cavish, Curator of Art, Ventura County Maritime Museum, 2011

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