

Water, Wind, and Waves: Marine Paintings from the Dutch Golden Age

National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC July 1 – November 25, 2018

This exhibition ended successfully on November 25th.

During the seventeenth century, the Dutch rose to greatness from the riches of the sea. With their massive fleet of cargo ships they became leaders in international maritime trade and transport, while their mighty warships commanded the high seas. They established a successful herring industry with their vast array of fishing boats, and they navigated local estuaries, rivers, and canals with their yachts and barges. The water was also a great source of enjoyment. In the warm summer months dune-lined beaches offered scenic vistas, while in the winter frozen canals provided a place for people of all ages to skate, play, and take pleasure in the outdoors. In this nation of sailors and skaters, it is no wonder that depictions of life on the water became a favorite subject of artists and collectors alike. Artists including Hendrick Vroom, Jan van Goyen, Willem van de Velde the Younger, and even Rembrandt van Rijn portrayed the water as an essential part of Dutch life and culture. This exhibition brings together some forty-five paintings, prints, drawings, rare books, and ship models to explore the multifaceted relationship the Dutch had with the water during the Golden Age of the seventeenth century.



Willem van de Velde the Younger, *Ships in a Stormy Sea*, Toledo Museum of Art



Anonymous Dutch 17th Century, Dutch States yacht, Peabody Essex Museum