

SA1159262

Samuel Owen (Attributed), Entering Portsmouth Harbour, Antique Watercolour

Price

GBP 600

| USD \$812 | EUR 702

Item Reference: SA1159262

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 45 cm (17.7")

Width = 55 cm (21.7")

Description

This early 19th-century watercolour, attributed to English artist Samuel Owen (1769-1857), depicts several vessels approaching Portsmouth harbour buffeted by turbulent waves. Owen was an accomplished British marine watercolourist who served in the Royal Navy. Considered one of the oldest Dockyards in the world, Portsmouth was at the forefront of maritime activity. The Royal Navy was a major employer, and Portsmouth was home to numerous distinguished warships. Here, we see a 'ship of the line', with its sails billowing and crew working tirelessly on deck. The details are rendered with careful observation, which is typical of Owen's meticulous draughtsmanship. Born in the leafy village of Hillingdon, Middlesex, Owen's father was a sailor and, as such, undoubtedly inspired his son to pursue a similar career. He appears to have lost his father early in life, but nevertheless, a life at sea was his calling. In 1788, he joined the Royal Navy and later captained several ships for the East India Company. These voyages took him across various continents, as far as Ecuador and Peru, Quebec and India. During his time as a sailor for the East India Company, he was appointed as a d...

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