

SA1228604

James George Philp RI ROI, H.M.S. Andromeda In The Bay Of Biscay - Antique Oil Painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1228604****Date of manufacture: 1800**

Dimensions

Height = 61 cm (24.0")

Width = 75 cm (29.5")

Depth = 6 cm (2.4")

Description

This dramatic mid-19th-century oil painting by English artist James George Philp RI ROI (1816-1885) depicts the H.M.S. Andromeda in the Bay of Biscay. She's a three-masted Royal Navy frigate battling mountainous seas beneath a sky alive with racing clouds and fleeting shafts of light. Few stretches of water have acquired quite the reputation of the Bay of Biscay. For centuries, sailors regarded its powerful Atlantic swells and unpredictable storms with equal measures of respect and apprehension. Here, Philp captures one such dramatic encounter. The composition is wonderfully theatrical. The frigate heels sharply as great green waves rise around her, their foaming crests catching the light before dissolving into shadow. Above, heavy storm clouds part just enough to illuminate the struggling vessel, creating a striking contrast between darkness and hope. One can almost hear the groaning timbers, the snap of canvas and the roar of the wind as the crew fight to keep their ship on course. Philp understood that the greatest marine paintings are not simply about ships but about atmosphere. Here, the restless sea dominates the composition, its constantly shifting surface paint...

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