

Claude Muncaster (1903 - 1974)

Rolling her easting down

Signed and dated, lower right: *CLAUDE MUNCASTER/1932*

Oil on canvas

30 x 40 in - 76.2 x 101.6 cm

Frame size

36¼ x 46¼ in - 92 x 117.5 cm

Artist description:

Claude Muncaster was a British landscape and marine painter whose lifelong fascination with the sea became a defining feature of his work. Born Grahame Hall, the son of Royal Academician, Oliver Hall (1869–1957), he began exhibiting under his given name before adopting the name Claude Muncaster in the early 1920s.

Muncaster took to the sea at an early age and made a number of long-distance voyages as a deck hand. He sketched and painted the ships, crews and places he encountered, becoming particularly known for his deck scenes aboard sailing ships. Among his most notable journeys was a voyage aboard the four-masted barque Olivebank, which included rounding Cape Horn in 1931.

During the Second World War, Muncaster served in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (RNVR), eventually reaching the rank of Lieutenant-Commander. Initially trained as a navigator, he was subsequently employed as a camouflage adviser to the Admiralty, drawing on his detailed knowledge of vessels and the sea. He also worked as an Official War Artist.

He exhibited extensively with the Fine Art Society, where his first solo exhibition was held in 1926. He was a founder member of the Royal Society of Marine Artists (RSMA), becoming its President in 1958,

a position he held until his death in 1974. He was also a member of the Royal Watercolour Society and exhibited regularly at the Royal Academy and other major British institutions.

In 1946–47, Muncaster was commissioned by Queen Elizabeth to produce a series of watercolours of royal residences, including Windsor, Sandringham and Balmoral. His books included Rolling Round the Horn (1933) and Landscape and Marine Painting (1958).

His work is represented in a number of important public collections, including Tate, the National Maritime Museum, the National Railway Museum, the Royal Air Force Museum, the Government Art Collection and the Science Museum.