

RICHARD FIRTH (BRITISH, BORN 1971)

Richard Firth was born in Hull, England in 1971. He grew up in the City of Hull with his two brothers and was raised by his father, who worked as a builder for the Hull City Council. During his early school years he showed a natural talent for art, but at the age of thirteen he started to work as a butcher. However, he never lost his love for art and, at the age of twenty-five, he began what was to be an extremely successful oil painting career.

He began his artistic career painting vintage cars, two of which were published as limited edition prints. He was mainly self-taught and began painting marine subjects in 1996. Richard's style is inspired by such great marine artists as John Wilson Carmichael (1799-1868), Thomas Somerscales (1842-1927) and Montague Dawson (1895-1973).

His love of marine paintings inspired him to become a keen yachtsman, and he realized that in order to paint accurate seascapes he would need to spend time on the high seas and learn all aspects of sailing, sea and weather conditions. His first sailing experience was on the Humber and east coast of England. In September 2011, Richard competed in the Round the World Yacht Race off the south coast of England – in preparation, he had to undergo intensive training involving all aspects of sailing, safety and navigation. Although this training was tough, nothing could prepare him for the grueling conditions he met crossing the South Atlantic Ocean from Rio de Janeiro to Cape Town on the winning clipper yacht, Gold Coast. The 3,390 miles across the South Atlantic Ocean took around eighteen days and became the most exhilarating and rewarding sailing experience of Richard's life.

Firth's experience at sea and work in the studio take his paintings far beyond photography – he achieves great depth, atmosphere, movement and realism on canvas. His paintings are all created freehand from memory, knowing how yachts sit and handle in water during all weather conditions.

Today, Firth is considered a highly successful marine artist and his works are widely collected throughout the world. His paintings are based upon early 20th century yacht races, attracting interest from art galleries and some of the most prestigious auction houses, including Christies, Sotheby's and Bonham's.

J.M. Stringer Galleries of Bernardsville, New Jersey and Vero Beach, Florida are proud to have sold several of his masterpieces in the past and currently have pieces available at both galleries.