

We hope you enjoy this painting from the Pannett Art Gallery Runswick by George Weatherill (1810-1890)

This charming, delicate miniature painting of a family working on the beach at Runswick Bay was painted in 1845. Look closely to enjoy the incredible detail.



In this painting the sea looks calm. Have you ever been out to sea in calm or rough conditions?

Can you imagine what it would have been like for the fishermen? Or for the rest of the family waiting at home?

George Weatherill was born into a farming family near the fishing village of Staithes. He was an intelligent child, who spent much of his spare time sketching. On leaving school he became an apprentice clerk to a solicitor, progressing to the position of solicitor's clerk.

In 1833 George married Sarah Coulson of Runswick Bay. They had four children, who were all talented artists.

By the 1840's George's paintings were gradually changing from his precise detailed early works to a softer, looser, more confident style. Influenced by the rapidly changing painting fashions, in particular the work of JMW Turner, his later watercolours became much more impressionistic, earning him the nickname "Turner of the North". In summer George would rise at 5 am to sketch and paint before work.

George changed career to a Banker's clerk and in 1852 he was promoted to the position of Chief Clerk. However, as his responsibilities at work increased so did the demand for his paintings, so in 1864 George retired to concentrate on painting.