

We hope you enjoy this painting from the Pannett Art Gallery

Sailing Ships in Whitby Harbour by Arthur Rackham (1867 –1939)

Arthur Rackham was one of the leading artists and book illustrators in a time that is described as the Golden Age of British Book Illustration. He created beautiful pen and ink drawings, often combined with watercolour. This subtly coloured drawing of Whitby is typical of his drawing style.



Do you like the way the artist has drawn Whitby?

Do you think Whitby has changed much in the last 100 years?

If so how?

Born in London, Arthur Rackham was one of 12 children.

He was working as a clerk at the Westminster Fire Office when he began studying art, part time, at Lambeth School of Art.

In his twenties he worked as a reporter and illustrator, and his first book illustrations were published in 1893. From 1894 book illustration became his main career, whilst he also continued to contribute to periodicals, dominating the art of book illustration at the start of the Twentieth Century. He is best known for his illustrations of fantasy and fairy stories, including the Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm. These high quality, beautiful books were highly regarded and often given as Christmas gifts.

Arthur Rackham also exhibited and won awards for his artworks, in Britain and Europe. His work is often described as a fusion of a northern European 'Nordic' style strongly influenced by the Japanese woodblock tradition of the early 19th century.

In 1904 Arthur Rackham married his neighbour Edyth Starkie, an established Irish portrait painter and sculptor, and together they had one daughter, Barbara, in 1908.