

Ship on Fire

Peter Monamy



1720s
Oil on Canvas
74 x 61.5cm

As you continue along the perimeter of the Assembly Rooms you will find a dramatic nocturne titled 'Ship on Fire' which was painted in the 18th century by an unknown artist who was a follower of the great British marine painter Peter Monamy.

Monamy began his career apprenticed to a sign painter on London Bridge where he developed his own artistic style mannered on the artist Van de Velde, a Dutchman who specialised in maritime and nautical scenes.

Monamy lived in a golden age of British naval glory and his portrayal of this success on canvas made him one of the country's most eminent artists. Later in life he achieved some considerable reputation for his seascapes laying the foundations of the English Maritime School of art. Many of his paintings now hang in the National Maritime Museum Greenwich.

In this scene, the follower of Peter Monamy, depicts a fire engulfing a tall ship at night as it lays in an estuary with figures, buildings and small boats ferrying survivors of the blaze ashore. In the foreground local fishermen are silhouetted against the glow of the moon.