

THE COMMITTEE ROOM (LE CAPELAIN GALLERY)

John Le Capelain (1812-1848) was sometimes referred to as 'the Jersey Turner'. He was born in Hill Street, St Helier, the son of a printmaker, and although he had no formal art training he exhibited in two London exhibitions, in 1833 and 1842, alongside leading artists such as Turner and Constable. When Queen Victoria and Prince Albert visited Jersey in September 1846 he was commissioned to paint a series of 26 watercolours which so impressed the Queen that she asked him to paint a series of views of the Isle of Wight. Whilst there he was taken ill, dying at the age of only 36. After his death a subscription was launched to raise money to establish a Le Capelain Gallery but the project was abandoned; in recent times this Committee Room in the Town Hall was devoted to his work. Copies of these 26 engravings are displayed in the Old Magistrate's Court behind the Town Hall. Le Capelain's landscapes and seascapes capture the spirit and feeling of the Island with delicate sensitivity, conveying the artist's emotional connection with his birthplace.



John Le Capelain
Self Portrait
Charcoal on paper, 1830s
23 x 17cm