PRINCIPLE
GALLERY

About the Artist: John Stobart

John Stobart was born in 1929 in Leicester, England. As a young student, Stobart struggled with conventional schooling but was creatively inclined and eventually enrolled in school at the prestigious Derby College of Art, and alter received a scholarship to London's acclaimed Royal Academy Schools. After graduating, Stobart embarked on a voyage to South Africa to visit his father, and stumbled across a novel idea. He created detailed sketches of the vessels and the twelve exotic ports that the passenger-cargo vessel pulled into, and after borrowing the plans for the new vessels being built, he created detailed and realistic portrayals of these vessels at the various ports and reached out to the owners of the vessels. Within two years, his paintings of ships in foreign ports were decorating some fifteen shipping company boardrooms in London.

In 1957, Stobart emigrated to Canada and continued his career in addition to starting his family. In 1965, he took a few of his paintings to New York to visit several galleries and gauge the reaction to his work. The very day of his arrival, Stobart was offered a one-man show by the Wunderlich family, owners of the Kennedy Galleries.

The artist observed that the American harbor scene during the great clipper era was a subject rarely attempted by American artists at the time, and he endeavored to fill the gap in the market. Over the next several years, Stobart held seven nearly sold-out shows with the Wunderlich's. In 1967, with a desire to create large, limited edition prints of his work, Stobart established Maritime Heritage Prints, Inc. In 1989, Stobart acted on another passion of his and created the Stobart Foundation to help qualified art students in a way he felt the establishment would not. Though he still continues to paint ships in American ports, these days Stobart has also returned to the practice of outdoor landscape painting, which is where he feels every landscape painter's ultimate contribution lies.