

# Basic Detail Report

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**00027385**

**Title**

Dutch ships at sea

**Date**

1672-1707

**Primary Maker**

Willem van de Velde

**Medium**

Chalk on parchment (vellum).

**Dimensions**

210 x 260 x 8 mm, 0.45 kg

**Name**

Drawing

**History**

Paintings of ships and the ocean were an incredibly popular topic in Dutch art during the 16th and 17th Century. Known as the Golden Age of Dutch Painting, the era celebrated not only the skill of Dutch artists but also the Dutch dominance over the sea and trade. Dutch ships explored the globe and commercially their success was unrivalled with the establishment and growth of the Dutch East Indies Company. Dutch marine art covered all aspects of life on the sea - military, commercial and quiet scenes on rivers or trade on the canal. Overwhelmingly the interest was on the ships and boats and the conditions or weather they faced. Highly dramatic scenes of ships in turmoil or in battle were common as were tranquil scenes at sunset or sunrise. Scenery over people was the norm. Adam Silo, to whom this drawing is now attributed, was a specialist maritime painter who it is suggested had a life at sea prior to taking up painting.