

# *Storm*





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ROB KATTENBURG

“OUDAEN” 1994

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*"And in green waves when the salt flood  
Doth rise by rage of wind,  
A thousand fancies in that mood  
Assail my restless mind."*

*Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey (1516-1547)*



## STORM

*This small book is a tribute to Jan Porcellis, the "Raphael of marine painting", as Van Hoogstraten called him. His earliest works are entirely in the manner of his teacher, Hendrick Vroom, with stylised green waves and sea-monsters. Gradually, though, he began to break free of this attractive but inhibiting straitjacket, and introduced an entirely new theme in marine painting, using monochrome grey tones to brilliant effect to suggest the atmosphere of light, air and water. He totally abandoned the rigid symbolism of the preceding period, and explored new avenues to prepare the way for a new generation of marine artists.*

*Porcellis's significance only becomes fully apparent when one reviews the long line of artists who are indebted to him. They include the greatest masters of the marine, such as Simon de Vlieger, Jan van de Cappelle, Willem van de Velde the Younger, Ludolf Bakhuizen and Jan van Goyen, who in turn inspired the artists of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.*

*"The art of his brush excels especially in the natural depiction of storms at sea, in which the thunderclouds that turn day into night, and the mighty streaks of lightning that emerge from the massed clouds, flash so naturally against rocks, beaches and the foaming brine that a landsman would be afear'd of the sea", wrote the eighteenth-century Houbraken.*

*The painting that inspired this book is a magnificent illustration of Houbraken's description. It is almost as if the waves are trying to surge off the panel, while the sense of depth is perfectly suggested by the band of shadow in the foreground with a band of light behind it—an extremely effective device that was imitated by all later marine artists. The fascination that seafaring Holland had with the ocean main, the fierce beauty of the elements, and the dangers they held—all are found in this picture.*

*In order to illustrate the influence that Porcellis had over his contemporaries and later generations of marine artists, we have sought some suitable company for him. All the paintings are from our own collection, or were once part of it.*

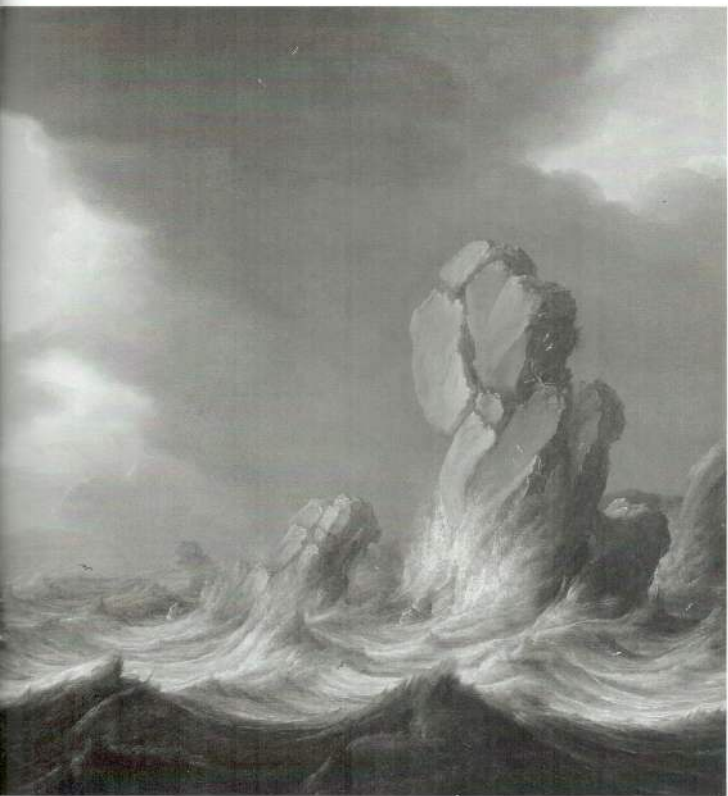
*By way of contrast, and in order to highlight Porcellis's innovative qualities, the series opens with a kindred spirit of Hendrick Vroom. Reproducing details rather than the entire painting brightens the impact, as well as doing greater justice to each artist's "hand". In the past, when we published a book about a picture, we provided a narrative for the reader's convenience. This time we have decided to allow the paintings to speak for themselves, and welcome you to this feat for the eye.*

*Rob Kattenburg  
Breukelen 1994*

2a     *"The roaring huge waves they threaten my poor ghost,  
And toss thee up and down the seas in danger to be lost."*

*Anonymous, 16th century*





*"Thou on whose stream, 'mid the steep sky's commotion,  
Loose clouds like earth's decaying leaves are shed,  
Shook from the tangled boughs of heaven and ocean,*

*Angels of rain and lightning! there are spread  
On the blue surface of thine airy surge,  
Like the bright hair uplifted from the head*

*Of some fierce Maenad, even from the dim verge  
Of the horizon to the zenith's height,  
The locks of the approaching storm. Thou dirge*

*Of the dying year, to which this closing night  
Will be the dome of a vast sepulchre,  
Vaulted with all thy congregated might*

*Of vapours, from whose solid atmosphere  
Black rain, and fire, and hail will burst: O hear!"*

*Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822)*





*"The winds quickly set the sea-surface rolling and lifted it in great waves.*

*The ships were scattered storm-tossed on the huge waste.*

*Clouds hid the light of day and darkness and rain blotted out the sky;*

*and again and again the clouds tore apart and the lightning blazed."*

*Virgil (70-19 B.C.)*



*"Thousands our noises were, yet we 'mongst all  
Could none by his right name, but thunder call:  
Lightning was all our light, and it rained more  
Than if the sun had drunk the sea before."*

*John Donne (1572-1631)*



*"And soon I heard a roaring wind:  
It did not come anear;  
But with its sounds it shook the sails,  
That were so thin and sere."*

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)*



*"And the coming wind did roar more loud,  
And the sails did sigh like sedge;  
And the rain pour'd down from one black cloud;  
The moon was at its edge."*

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)*





*"Blow, blow, thou winter wind,  
Thou art not so unkind  
As man's ingratitude;  
Thy tooth is not so keen,  
Because thou art not seen,  
Although thy breath be rude."*

*William Shakespeare (1564-1616)*



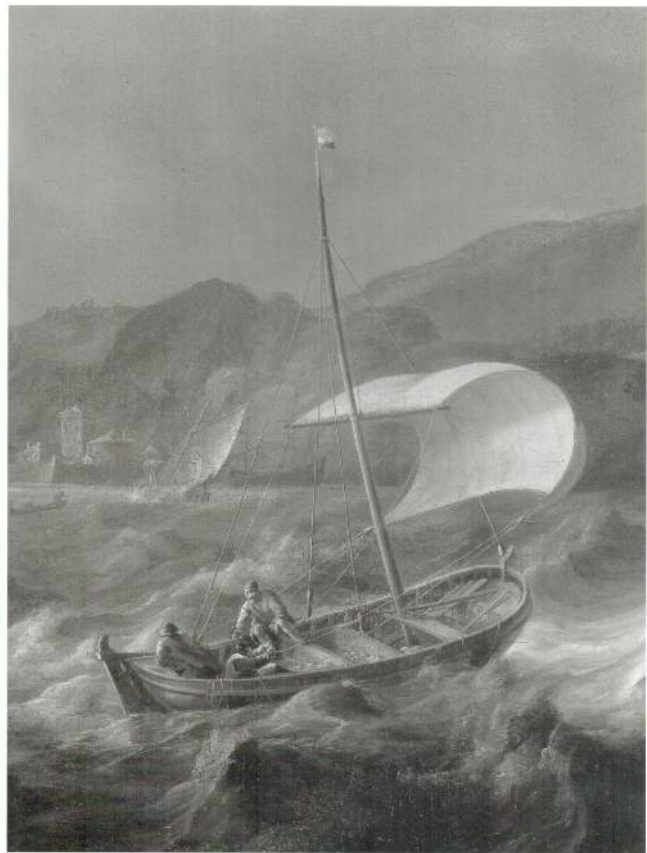
*"And now the Storm-blast came, and he  
Was tyrannous and strong:  
He struck with his o'ertaking wings,  
And chased us south along."*

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)*



*"They hadna sail'd a leaague, a league,  
A league but barely three,  
When the lift grew dark, and the wind blew loud,  
And gurly grew the sea."*

*Anonymous, 17th century*



*"Then like two mighty kings, which dwelling far  
Asunder, meet against a third to war,  
The south and west winds joined, and, as they blew,  
Waves like a rolling trench before them threw."*

*John Donne (1572-1631)*



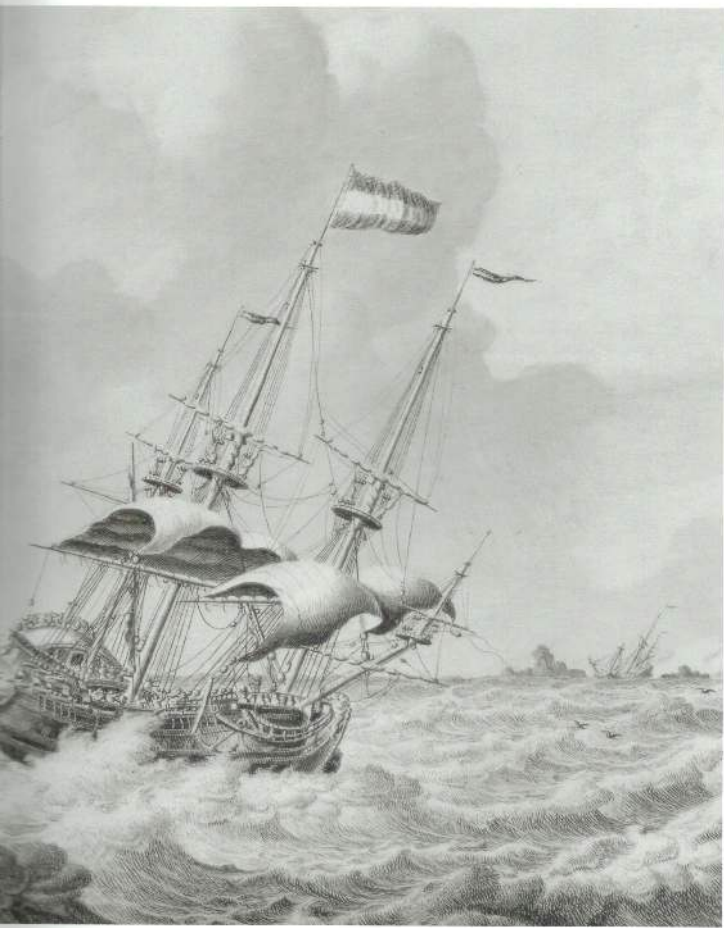




*"With sloping masts and dipping prow,  
As who pursued with yell and blow  
Still treads the shadow of his foe,  
And forward bends his head,  
The ship drove fast, loud roar'd the blast,  
And southward aye we fled."*

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834)*





*"Be it wind, be it weet, be it hail, be it sleet,  
Our ship must sail the faem."*

*Anonymous, 17th century*





*"Sooner than you read this line, did the gale,  
Like shot, not feared till felt, our sails assail;  
And what at first was called a gust, the same  
Hath now a storm's, anon a tempest's name."*

*John Donne (1572-1631)*





*"The ankers brak, and the topmast lap,  
It was sic a deadly storm:  
And the waves cam owre the broken ship  
Till a' her sides were torn."*

*Anonymous, 17th century*





1

**Aert Anthonisz. (van Antoon) attr.**  
(Antwerp 1580 - Amsterdam 1622)



*Storm*  
Oil on copper, 16.7 x 21.9 cm

5

**Bonaventura Peeters**  
(Antwerp 1614 - Hoboken 1652)



*Ships in rough seas*  
Panel, 37 x 56.5 cm  
Signed with monogram B.P. and dated 1635

2 n/b and cover

**Jan Porcellis\***  
(Ghent ca 1585 - Zoeterwoude 1632)



*Storm*  
Oil on panel, 50.5 x 82.5 cm  
Signed J. Persellu

6

**Pieter Mulier the Elder**  
(Haarlem ca 1615-1670)



*Ships in rough sea*  
Oil on panel, 28.5 x 40.5 cm  
Signed with monogram PM

3

**Adam Willaerts**  
(Antwerp 1577 - Utrecht 1664)



*Shipwreck*  
Oil on panel, 85 x 121 cm  
Signed with monogram A.W. and dated 1636

7

**Allaert van Everdingen**  
(Alkmaar 1621 - Amsterdam 1675)



*Coastal view*  
Oil on canvas, 64.5 x 84 cm  
Signed with monogram AVE

4

**Simon de Vlieger\***  
(Rotterdam ca 1600 - Weesp 1653)



*Storm*  
Oil on panel, 59 x 81 cm  
Signed S. de Vlieger

8

**Jan Peeters**  
(Antwerp 1624 - ca 1679)



*Storm*  
Oil on panel, 50.5 x 82.5 cm

9

**Ludolf Bakhuizen \***

(Emden 1631 - Amsterdam 1708)



*Shipping off a rocky coast*  
Oil on canvas, 56 x 86 cm

Signed L. Back

*Exhibitions:* Glorious past of the Netherlands and Japan, Kobe July 21 - Sept. 19, 1993; Tokyo Oct. 8 - Nov. 28, 1993; cat. no 26, ill.

12

**Johannes Hermanus Koekkoek**

(Veere 1778 - Amsterdam 1851)



*Pilot boat coming to the aid of a merchantman in distress*  
Oil on canvas, 52 x 72 cm

Signed J.H. Koekkoek and dated 1839

10

**Ludolf Bakhuizen**

(Emden 1631 - Amsterdam 1708)



*The Dutch men-of-war Ridderschap and Hollandia in difficulties during a hurricane in the Straits of Gibraltar, 1-3 March 1694*

Oil on canvas, 150 x 227 cm

Signed with monogram L.B.

(twice)

*Exhibitions:* Ludolf Bakhuizen, schryfmeester - teykenaar - schilder, Amsterdam, June-August

1985, cat. no. 533, ill.; Ludolf

Bakhuizen, Emden, September-

October 1985

13

**Johannes Christiaan Schotel \***

(Dordrecht 1787-1838)



*Stormy weather off the coast of Vriesland*

Oil on canvas, 164 x 215 cm

Signed J.C. Schotel

*Exhibition:* Een ontferfelijk zeeschilder, J.C. Schotel 1787-1838,

Dordrecht 1989, cat. no. 20, ill.

11

**Adriaen (van) (der) Saltu**

(Delfhaven ca 1660-1720)



*Armed Dutch three masted in choppy sea*

Penpainting on panel, 37 x 48 cm

Signed A. Saltu

14

**Hermanus Koekkoek**

(Middelburg 1815 - Haarlem 1882)



*Storm*

Oil on panel, 24 x 34.5 cm

Signed with monogram HK and dated '51

Works marked with an asterisk \* were still available for sale when this catalogue went to press. P.O.A.

**COLOPHON**

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2 a/b and cover

**Jan Porcellis \***

(Ghent ca 1585 - Zeeuwijk 1672)



4

**Simon de Vries \***

(Rotterdam ca 1600 - Wierp 1633)



9

**Ludolf Bakhuizen \***

(Emden 1631 - Amsterdam 1708)



13

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