

KLAAS MULLER

LUDOLF BAKHUIZEN

Twin Masts at Rest

This drawing by Ludolf Bakhuizen depicts two sailing vessels lying quietly side by side, likely Dutch coastal traders or fishing boats from the 17th century. The ship on the left stands out with its partially hoisted sail, rendered with care: the folds, attachment points, and gentle curve suggest a light breeze. The ship on the right has its mast upright, but the sail is either absent or lowered, giving it a more subdued silhouette. Both vessels feature low hulls and broad bows, typical of the ships that sailed along the Dutch coast during that period.

Bakhuizen worked here with brown ink and subtle washes, adding depth and shadow without losing the clarity of the composition. His linework is loose yet precise, indicating that this is a sketch-like study—possibly intended as preparation for a painting or as a visual note from observation. The background is left blank, drawing full attention to the ships and enhancing the calmness of the scene.

As an artist, Ludolf Bakhuizen was known for his maritime scenes and cityscapes. This drawing reflects his fascination with nautical life and his ability to convey form, material, and atmosphere with minimal means. The work exudes a quiet beauty and demonstrates a keen eye for detail and composition.

Pen, brown ink and grey washes, 14 x 17.3 cm (5 1/2 x 6 3/4 inches)

