

KLAAAS MULLER

D E V E R W E R A B R A H A M

Twin Masts at Rest

This drawing by Abraham de Verwer 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.

De Verwer 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, Abraham de Verwer 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)



Artist description:

Abraham de Verwer (Haarlem, 1585 – Amsterdam, 1650) was a Dutch Golden Age painter and draughtsman. He produced cityscapes, river landscapes and seascapes.

He is mentioned as a cabinetmaker in his wife's will from 1607. He probably only began painting later in life. His teacher

is unknown. His earliest dated work is from 1610. While it is unclear when he moved to Amsterdam, he is first mentioned as a painter in the city in 1617.

Abraham de Verwer (also known as Abraham de Verwer or de Verweer) van Burghstrate was in France in 1637 and 1639, or possibly for the entire period. He painted a number of cityscapes in Paris and other cities. He then returned to Amsterdam, buying a house on the Prinsengracht in 1642. He later lived on Warmoesstraat, where he died in 1650.

He was the father and teacher of the painter Justus de Verwer.