

Gleams and Echoes: Works from the British Council Collection in Dialogue with Hong Kong Young Voices

Leonard Rosoman

Ship Series: Man Blown in the Wind

1987

Lithograph

British Council Collection

Created as part of the Artists' Choice portfolio published by the Royal College of Art in 1987, this dynamic lithograph from Rosoman's Ship Series evokes the harsh realities of maritime life. A solitary figure, caught mid-stride, is hurled by ferocious winds across a storm-lashed deck, his coat billowing like sails in turmoil. Rosoman's fluid lines and vivid tones capture the elemental force of nature, blending human vulnerability with resilient defiance, which is a hallmark of his post-war explorations of technology and peril at sea, inspired by his Pacific Fleet experiences. The edition consisted of 48 prints, highlighting Rosoman's distinct approach to movement and dramatic tension at sea.

Leonard Rosoman (1913–2012) was a distinguished British painter, draughtsman, and muralist whose career spanned illustration, war art, and teaching. Born in London, he trained at King Edward VII School of Art, Newcastle, the Royal Academy Schools, and Central School of Arts and Crafts. During the Second World War, Rosoman served in the Auxiliary Fire Service, documenting the Blitz, and later as an Official War Artist with the British Pacific Fleet, capturing naval technology and combat scenes. Post-war, he taught at Edinburgh College of Art, Chelsea School of Art, and the Royal College of Art (1957–78), influencing artists like David Hockney. Elected ARA in 1960 and RA in 1969, he created murals for the Festival of Britain, Brussels Expo, and Lambeth Palace chapel. Rosoman received the OBE in 1981.