



Artist Unknown

Worthing (c.1860)

Original Watercolour and Lithograph produced by Newman & Co. Print in Worthing Museum and Art Gallery's collection

Dimensions 24 x 51.4 cm

This work has been chosen to support 'Our Place' – Annual Schools Exhibition 2015 - celebrating the built heritage of the South Downs.

Towner Gallery in partnership with South Downs National Park Authority, Worthing Museum and Art Gallery and the Flora Twort Gallery Petersfield

About the artist

The identity of the artist of Worthing is still unknown.

In 1981 a representative of the British painting and drawing department contacted Mr Norwood who was the curator of the Museum. They explained that they were interested to know if the artist could be recognised and if he had any further comment on the watercolour. A response was given that the artist was unknown and even on close inspection of a lithograph of the picture there was no signature to be found.

It is often the case that artists cannot be identified for their works in museum collections. There are around 150 items in the Fine Art collection listed as Artist Unknown.

About the print

Worthing is a lithograph which is a type of print, and shows a view of the town and the South Downs in the background from the perspective of the artist being out to sea. There are several boats in the foreground and a buoy floating out to sea in the right hand corner. At the time of the picture's creation, Worthing had a population of approximately 5000 people. It was visited by many people mainly through the summer months including Marie Amelie, who was the consort to the King of France in 1861. The pier is not included in the picture which indicates that it was created before 1867 when the pier was built. We do not know the exact date of the print but it is circa (approximate date) 1860.



Understand & Evaluate

What part of the picture catches your eye first? Do you think this was the artist's intention? Why do you think this?

How do you think the artist went about sketching the scene from the sea perspective? What difficulties might he/she have encountered?

What time of year would you estimate the scene was recorded? What might be different about it if it was drawn at a different time of year?

How has Worthing changed, comparing it now to what it was like in 1860? Discuss what you think it might look like on Worthing beach in the future. How would it change? What would the people be like? Do you think you would enjoy it?

Explore and create

The process of traditional lithography involves the resistance between oil and water. Can you identify other techniques that use this concept?

Try drawing a bold image using oil pastels in bright colours, then paint over it with either a black ink or watercolours (it's best to use heavy paper for this). What do you think of the results? Experiment with this technique.

What other printing techniques can you try? Mono-printing is a technique that produces only one print (lithography can repeat many of the same image). Try mono-printing by using a piece of non-absorbent material for your plate,

1. paint or draw onto it with an oil/acrylic based ink
2. then place a piece of paper on to it carefully and rub over it with a dry sponge
3. peel the paper off to see how the print has turned out
4. experiment with this technique by placing cut out shapes or found objects like leaves onto the inked plate before taking the print
5. then take another print after this to see what happens

Further links to the National Park

Use the South Downs National Park Learning Zone to explore <http://learning.southdowns.gov.uk/>.

[Learning outside the Classroom](#) including links for health and safety and practical support in planning your work away from the classroom.

[About the National Park](#) The South Downs National Park is the newest of the National Parks established in 2009. All National Parks are special places that are recognised for their stunning landscapes, amazing wildlife and rich heritage, as well as providing fantastic opportunities for enjoying and learning about what makes them special.

[Geology and landscape](#) The South Downs National Park has a fantastic diversity of landscapes in a relatively small area. They vary from the wooded and heathland ridges to wide open downland that spans the length of the National Park. Worthing is on the edge of the Open Eastern Downs and Chalk Valleys landscape character type. There are 7 distinctive landscape types across the South Downs National Park. Find out more about these by looking at the [Sense of Place](#) toolkit that includes fantastic maps and information about each distinctive area.

[Farming and Land management](#) Farming and land management has shaped the South Downs over the centuries and has helped to create and sustain the distinctive landscapes, diverse habitats and species, archaeological features and local produce. Over 85% of the South Downs National Park is agricultural. The proportion of grassland to arable in the South Downs has changed throughout history, but both have shaped the landscape we see today.

[Habitats and wildlife](#) The unique combination of geology in the South Downs has created a rich mosaic of habitats that supports many rare and internationally important wildlife species. The internationally rare [chalk grassland](#) supports rare orchids and butterflies, whilst the [heathland](#) sites are home to all the UK's native reptiles and amphibians. The [rivers and streams](#) of the National Park support a rich and diverse array of species including invertebrates, riverine bird species and also populations of mammals such as water shrew, otters and [water voles](#).

[Culture and heritage](#) The landscape of the South Downs has provided the raw materials for buildings both within the South Downs National Park and in the neighbouring urban areas, such as Worthing. These buildings utilise the natural resources found across the National Park including flint, clay, timber, Horsham stone and greensand. For more information about the building materials used across the National Park see the presentation on [Buildings in the South Downs Landscape](#).

[Access and recreation](#) The South Downs National Park is a very accessible landscape with over 3,000 km of rights of way including the South Downs Way, a 160 km National Trail stretching from Winchester to Eastbourne, see: <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/south-downs-way> for more details.

[Economy and industry](#) Nowadays the industry of the South Downs is dominated by farming and tourist related businesses. There are also a wide range of other businesses, for example new technology and science, which support local employment. You can find out more about these different types of industry in the [State of the National Park Report](#).