



**DOERR DALLAS
VALUATIONS**



Jonathan Horwich
Modern & Contemporary
Art Specialist

KING CHARLES III, PASSIONATE PAINTER

King Charles III first began painting in 1970, inspired by Robert Waddell, his art master at Gordonstoun School in Scotland. The school has a 200-acre woodland campus, and is within walking distance of the beaches of the Moray Firth and so provided the young prince with a wealth of subject matter. His Majesty began painting with watercolour at Gordonstoun and has stuck with it until now, despite it's occasionally unforgiving nature.

The King says it gives him a greater sense of immediacy and ease of working 'en Plein Air'. He also likes the speed of working in watercolour, it means he is quicker to finish a picture, and so doesn't have to keep his security detail waiting for too long while he finishes a sketch.

The King is following a tradition first begun by Queen Victoria, who also only used watercolours and as a young girl was taught by well known artists such as William Leighton Leitch (1804-1883) . After leaving school King Charles initially received instruction from the then President of the Royal Academy and Architect Sir Hugh Casson, and his early work clearly shows Casson's influence. Subsequently he was taught by some of Britain's most famous Royal Academicians artists, including John Napper, John Ward, the Royal Family's favourite painter, Edward Seago, and the Anglo Irish artist Derek Hill, who also facilitated painting trips in Ireland for the King.

The King's style has evolved over the years into something that is clearly his own and for me as a specialist is immediately recognizable, often simply signed with a capital C. Favourite subjects to paint are outdoor scenes, particularly mountains, streams, and the surrounding areas of the Royal estates in Scotland and Norfolk. However other subjects include overseas landscapes including Saudi Arabia and the South of France.

He is a generous supporter of many causes and all profit and sales benefit the Prince's Trust for Children and the Arts. As a regular Charity auctioneer myself I have brought the gavel down on many of his signed, limited edition colour lithographs all generously donated and selling for prices between £3-£8,000 depending on the event and subject. These also regularly appear for sale on the auction and retail market and so are available for anyone to buy either from traditional galleries or online vendors for between £6-10,000 again depending on subject and rarity. As for the original watercolours, it is my belief that these are only given as personal gifts from the King to his artist and other friends and therefore are kept as treasured gifts and so never sold.

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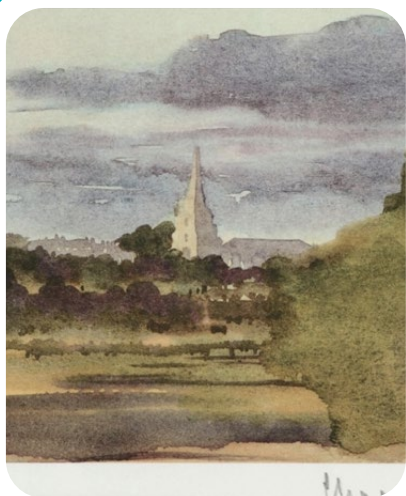
Very very occasionally an original watercolour will find its way onto the auction market, and these are well worth looking out for. King Charles has continuously shown his work in non selling events over the years beginning with his first exhibition in 1977 held at Windsor Castle, where his work was displayed alongside works by Queen Victoria and the Duke of Edinburgh, himself an enthusiastic painter and sometime designer, whose sketches helped create the stained-glass windows in the Private Chapel of Windsor Castle.

The King rather modestly refers to himself as an “*enthusiastic amateur*,” however sales of his work have raised an estimated £2 million from the sales of signed limited edition prints of his watercolors from 1997 to 2016, making him one of the country's best-selling living artists. Additionally in conjunction with Hugh Maxwell Casson ,King Charles illustrated a children's book, “*The Old Man of Lochnagar*,” about an old, cave-dwelling man who meets a bubble-blowing god of the sea!

I imagine a King's duties may leave less time for painting, hopefully not as the result is very pleasing to all concerned and is clearly a source of relaxation and pleasure in achievement for our New King.



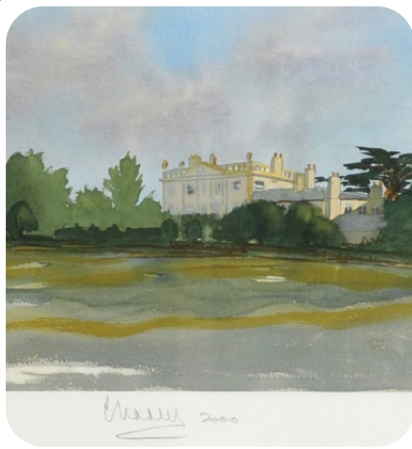
“**Balmoral Castle**”: This painting depicts the Scottish residence of the Royal Family, Balmoral Castle, which has been a favourite retreat of the royal family for generations. Prince Charles often visits the castle and has painted several pictures of it.



“**Tetbury Church**”: Tetbury Church is a few miles from King Charles' Cotswold home, 'Highgrove'.



“Sandringham”: Sandringham House is a country retreat for the British royal family in Norfolk, England. This painting by Prince Charles portrays the beautiful gardens surrounding the property.



“Highgrove Garden”: The Prince of Wales’ private residence in Gloucestershire, England, is known for its beautiful gardens. This painting by Prince Charles captures the beauty and tranquility of his home’s gardens.



“Winter scene Balmoral”: This painting depicts winter in the hills that surround the Balmoral estate, and captures the peaceful and serene atmosphere of the Scottish landscape.

[Click here to find out more about the King Charles’ watercolour paintings exhibition.](#)

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