

Pioneering Woman Explorer and Naturalist Pictures at Auction

Seven watercolour drawings of fish by Sarah Bowdich Lee are included in the Charterhouse specialist picture auction on **Thursday 4th January**.

“A pioneering woman explorer and naturalist in the early 19th century she had a particular interest in ichthyology or the field study of fish,” commented Richard Bromell. “Rarely seen at auction these delicate, to scale and faithful drawings are estimated to sell for £3,000.”



Sarah Bowdich Lee – watercolour drawing of a Carp

The drawings were painted to accompany her important book “Fresh-Water Fishes” Issued in twelve separately published instalments containing four watercolours each, Bowdich painted every fish repeatedly, producing a total of 2,200 paintings between 1827 and 1837. The decision not to arrange for lithographs or other printed plates

ensured that Bowdich had full control over the scale and colouring of each image. Bowdich's paintings are incredibly lifelike and highly accurate, with the sheen of the scales and the translucency of the fins of each fish being effectively reproduced through the layering of transparent and opaque washes.

Charterhouse are now accepting further entries for their forthcoming specialist auctions of pictures, books & antiques in January with classic cars and classic motorcycles in March

Richard Bromell and the Charterhouse Team can be contacted for advice and valuations at The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne, **01935 812277** or via **info@charterhouse-auction.com**