



Anna Hunter, owner of Belgravia Gallery, displays a 20-year-old painting by Prince Charles of Double Haven in the New Territories. Photo: K.Y. Cheng

Royals return through their art

Adrian Wan

The Prince of Wales has visited Hong Kong many times, but it is not widely known that he painted while in the city.

Rare art works by members of the British royal family, including one painted by Prince Charles aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia in the New Territories, are on display in Hong Kong.

It is the first time the collection has been exhibited in Asia, and features 38 works, including 14 lithographs by the prince and etchings by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

The exhibition has been brought to the city from London's Belgravia Gallery, which has been selling art

works by royals since 1989, when Prince Charles agreed to make lithographs of his original watercolour paintings to be sold for charity, gallery owner Anna Hunter said.

"Prince Charles would bring an artist with him on his travels, and they would discuss art," Hunter said. "He became a world-class artist and has won several awards."

Hunter said Charles painted Double Haven in the New Territories from the deck of Britannia about 20 years ago, and described it as one of his most important paintings.

Most of the 100 handmade prints have been sold, with the most expensive going for HK\$200,000.

"There's been an enormous

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Anna Hunter, owner of London's Belgravia Gallery

amount of interest in Prince Charles' work in recent years," Hunter said. "Many pieces have risen quite substantially in value."

The gallery has published 18 limited-edition lithographs of the prince's watercolour paintings, with prices starting at HK\$50,000. Charles' works have raised HK\$49.7 million for the Prince's Charities Foundation.

Hunter said the works by Queen Victoria and her husband Prince Albert were about 160 years old and very rare. "It's quite hard to come across them, and they're all in absolutely perfect condition," she said. The exhibition will run until February 11 at the Rotunda, One Exchange Square, Central.