

JOHN MITCHELL

FINE PAINTINGS



Julius Caesar Ibbetson (1759 - 1817)

Orchard Bay, Isle of Wight

oil on canvas

20 1/8 x 26 3/8 in.

51 x 67 cm.

signed and dated: Julius Ibbetson pinx // 1796

£14,500

Exhibited:

Royal Academy 1796, no. 47

Literature:

Rotha Mary Clay, *Julius Caesar Ibbetson*, 1948, p. 49

The remote southern side of the Isle of Wight, with its cliffs and rocky coves, was reputedly the haunt of wreckers and bootleggers, and this intensified the island's romantic appeal to artists like de

Loutherbourg, Ibbetson and, later, the Rev. Gilpin in his treatise of 1798 on *Picturesque Beauty*. Our summery, buoyant scene of a sailor's homecoming was the last of a series of Isle of Wight subjects exhibited by Ibbetson at the Royal Academy in the 1790s, and is almost certainly the uplifting pendant to the gothic horror of his dramatic *Storm: Back of the Isle of Wight* now in the Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio.