



Catching Flight

Capturing the intensity of the America's Cup requires talent and an exceptional eye. Painter Jeremy Houghton has been commissioned to paint a series for Ben Ainslie's America's Cup team. He talks to us about the challenges and the excitement of being part of the world's greatest sailing race.

Jeremy Houghton is a specialist in sport and flight, whose work is an ongoing study of speed and flight. Houghton is currently the official Artist in Residence of Ben Ainslie's Land Rover BAR team who is a contender in the America's Cup World Series. He was previously an official BT Olympic Artist for London 2012, and has spent time as Artist in Residence at Highgrove for HRH the Prince of Wales and at Windsor Castle for HM the Queen.

His interest in the America's Cup grew out of his work at the Olympics: "I met Ben Ainslie during the Olympics in 2012 and when I heard he was putting together a team for the America's Cup it was very much a journey that I wanted to be part of. Maritin Whitmarsh (CEO of Land Rover BAR team) and an agent arranged an interview with Ben Ainslie and myself. During the interview it emerged that Ben really liked my previous work. He appreciated that flight is an ongoing theme in my work. If you look at the America's Cup catamarans, they lift out of the water and fly. It is as much about aerodynamics as it is about

hydrodynamics."

Houghton spends one week per month at the team's home in Portsmouth through to the America's Cup in Bermuda in 2017, attending at least one of the Louis Vuitton America's Cup World Series events. "I go out on the water in a boat and follow the team, take photographs and make sketches. I usually spend about 2-3 hours on the water. I focus on Ben and the five other team members but I think it is important to paint all the people in the boat yard and those who are involved with the team. It is important to tell the whole story. I think the legacy is interesting and I hope I will provide legacy through my art."

The paintings will be used to help raise money for the team's official charity, The 1851 Trust, through exhibitions and the sale of the works. "At the moment I have six paintings on display that are for sale, six others are on my easel which will be coming out to New York in May. All in all I hope to have done 60-70 paintings by the end of the project," said Houghton.



Left page:
Team Ainslie;
America's Cup
Training

This page:
Top right:
Paul Goodison -
day job.

Top left: Graceful
Above: Team Ainslie
Training on the
Solent