

Alison Smith ACR
Conservation and Restoration of Easel Paintings
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Condition Report

Artist: Alfred Wallis
Title: Mizzen Topsail Luggers
Dimensions: 15cm x 34cm x 1cm



Support

The painting is on board of 9-10mm thickness. The board has been roughly cut along the top edge and has a number of prominent knots and one small hole. There is an old repair to the board 1/3rd down from the top edge, this repair has been carried out with a dark, crystalline (likely) animal glue which is visible in places on the reverse and in a small area on the face at a small loss to the wood. The repair was carried out after the painting was completed, has a slight (less than 1mm) step and is secure.

Below the repair is a split in the board, approximately 24cm in length, which is slightly open on the left edge. There is a small area of lifted wood 9cm in from the left edge. The split also occurred after painting was completed and is stable.



Painting reverse.

Paint and Surface Layers

The paint has been directly applied to the board with minimal ground. It would appear that the sea was painted first, followed by the boats and then the highlights in the sea. The paint is in good condition with no areas of flaking. Small areas of paint loss are restricted to the line of the panel repair, around the knot in the board and isolated small old damages. The small hole left edge pre-existed the application of the paint. The work is unvarnished and aside from the board repair has no restoration.

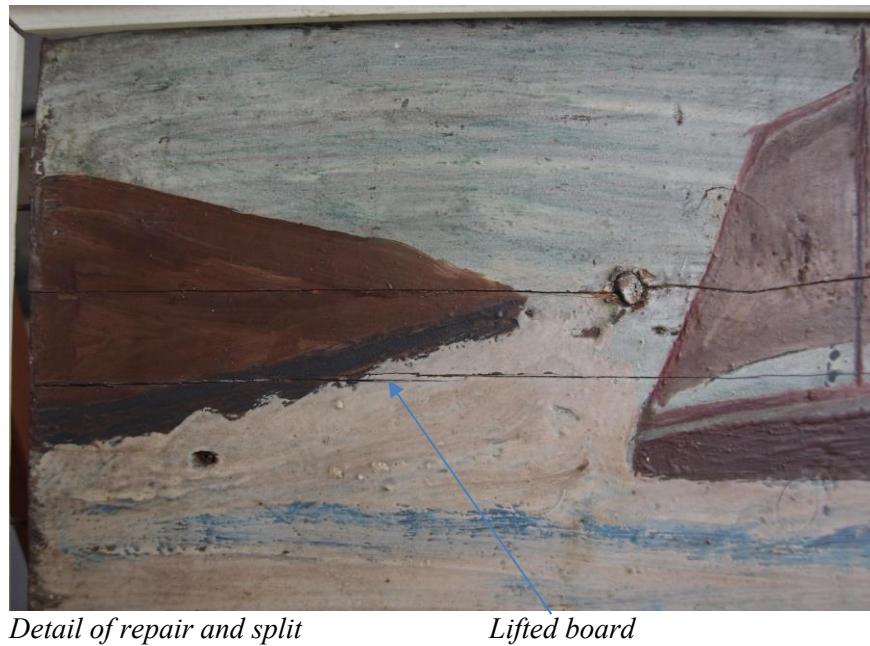
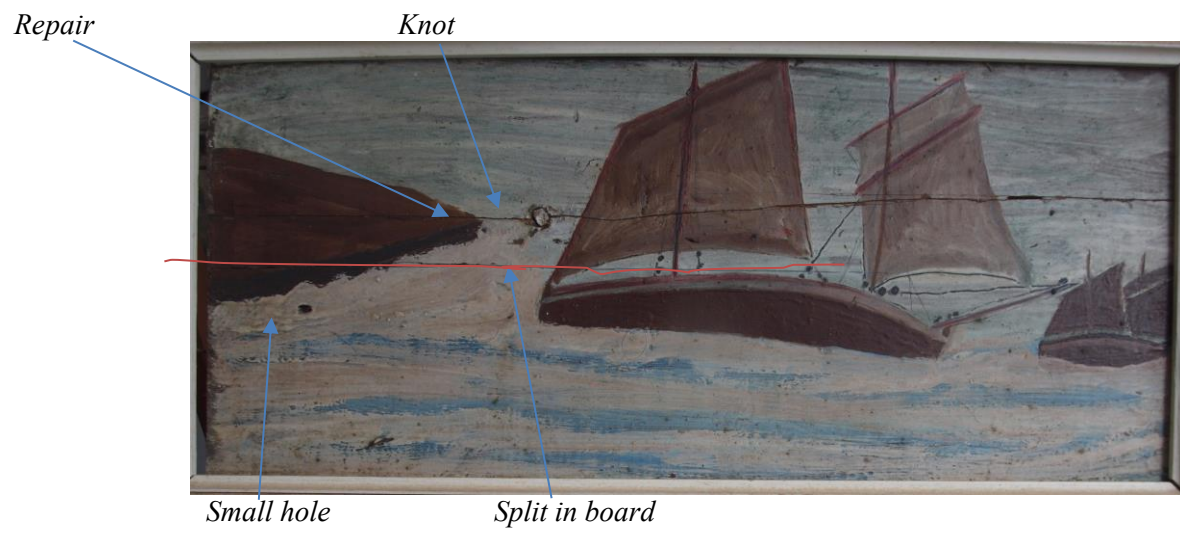
Frame

The frame is a two-piece 1960's style wooden surround with linen-covered slip. There is a fair amount of surface dirt on the slip edges but the frame is structurally sound. The board is held in the frame with small bent nails, is fairly loose within the frame and has a large gap at the top edge. There is no backing board or glazing.

Summary

The painting is in a good, stable and original condition. The board repair is not recent and has been carried out to a good standard; there is no evidence of any further restoration or cleaning.

Alison Smith
16th June, 2026.









Inscriptions on the reverse



Inscriptions on the reverse.

