View of Naples from near Posilippo, Italy

William Callow

Sold



REF: 3174

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Description

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William Callow, R.W.S. (1812-1908)
View of Naples from near Posilippo, Italy

Signed lower left: W. Callow 1849
Watercolour over pencil heightened with bodycolour and stopping out
37.3 by 55 cm., 14 ½ by 21 ½ in.

Provenance:
With J. Leger & Sons, 13 Old Bond Street, London, August 1949

The present watercolour is likely based on a sketch drawn by Callow on his first tour of Italy in the summer of 1840. He wrote in his autobiography: `Afterwards I left for Naples, stopping a night at Terracina by the way, and reached Naples on the following day, visiting Herculaneum and Vesuvius. Next I took the railway to Castellamare and walked to Torre del Greco, where I hired a donkey and went to Castel Lettere and Gragnano; afterwards to Pompeii, in which place I was greatly interested. From there I returned to Torre del Greco, and back by rail to Naples. On the next day I took the steamer `Francisco Primo' for Marseilles.' (edited by H.M. Cundall, William Callow - an Autobiography, 1908, p.79).

A watercolour from a similar viewpoint, `Distant view of Naples - early morning', was bought by Prince Albert at the Society of Painters in Water-colours exhibition in 1852 and is now in the Royal Collection (RL 25175). It was published as an engraving in 1856. Callow exhibited `On the Chiesa, Naples' at the same place in 1850.

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