

View of Naples from near Posilippo, Italy

William Callow



Description

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.