Chiswick House from the North-west

Gabriele Carelli



REF: 2496

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Description

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Gabriele Carelli (1820-1900)
Chiswick House from the North-west

inscribed lower left: Chiswick/1849
Pencil and watercolour heightened with touches of bodycolour on buff paper
26 by 36.4 cm., 10 ¼ by 14 ¼ in.

Provenance:
With Thos. Agnew & Sons, London

Italian born Gabriele Carelli first visited England in early 1847, employed by the 6th Duke of Devonshire as his personal painter. His father Raffaele had also found patronage under the Duke, accompanying him on tours to Sicily and then Turkey. Gabriele returned to Italy in Autumn 1847 but began to spend increasing amounts of time in England, finally settling there permanently in 1866. He specialised in architectural subjects, such as the present watercolour, as well as topographical views based on his numerous tours throughout Europe, the Near East and North Africa.

The present watercolour was executed during one of Carelli's many visits to England. Chiswick House had been in the Cavendish Family, since it was inherited by William, 4th Duke of Devonshire in 1758, from his mother-in-law Lady Burlington. Chiswick House is one of the earliest and most important Neo-Palladian buildings in England. Designed and built by William Kent and the 3rd Earl of Burlington between 1725 and 1738, it was inspired by the work of Antonio Palladio and in particular his Villa Rotunda. The surrounding gardens, breaking down the rigid formality of the early 18th Century garden, in favour of a more naturalistic landscape, proved equally revolutionary and influential on the development of future landscape design.

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