Llandaff Cathedral, South Wales

Peter De Wint

Sold

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REF: 1492

Description

Peter de Wint (1784-1849)
Llandaff Cathedral, South Wales

Numbered verso: 258
Watercolour over pencil heightened with scratching out and stopping out on wove paper watermarked: WHATMAN 1829
32.4 by 49.6 cm., 12 ¾ by 19 ½ in.

Provenance:
John Vaughan, 1848;
With Thos. Agnew, London, 1918, where bought by Walter A. Barret;
With Thos. Agnew, London, 1990;
With Andrew Wyld, London, 2005

Exhibited:
London, Society of Painters in Water-colours, 1848, no. 258;
London, Agnew's, Annual English Watercolour Exhibition, 1990, no. 60;
London, Andrew Wyld, Peter de Wint 1784-1849, Colourist and Countryman, 2005, no. 28

Llandaff Cathedral stands on the banks of the river Taff, two miles north-west of the centre of Cardiff. De Wint first visited South Wales and was struck by the beauty of the landscape. He faithfully records the cathedral as it stood at the time but he drawn a tree to disguise the rather incongruous classical temple built by John Wood of Bath in the ruined nave in the 1740s. He has also added mountains behind for dramatic effect.

By the time de Wint exhibited the present work in 1848, a rebuilding programme of the cathedral had started under T.H. Wyatt. By 1845, John Prichard had taken over the project and it lasted on and off until 1861 (see John Newman, The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan, 1995, p.241). As part of the work, the temple was demolished and the cathedral rebuilt in a gothic style. This lasted until 1941 when it was badly damaged in the War and was rebuilt by George Pace between 1949 and 1957.

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