Study of a Tree near Conway Castle, North Wales

John Varley

Sold



REF: 2574

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Description

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John Varley (1778-1842)
Study of a Tree near Conway Castle, North Wales

Inscribed on a label formerly attached to the backboard: I certify that this is an Original Drawing/by Old John Varley/Born 1779/Died 1842/Herb. Varley/Grandson/18th July 1899
Watercolour over pencil
31.8 by 22.6 cm., 12 ½ by 8 ¾ in.

Provenance:
Anonymous sale, Bonham's, 7th March 2006, lot 73;
With Martyn Gregory, London 2012

Exhibited:
London, Martyn Gregory, An Exhibition of British Watercolours and Drawings 1730-1870, 2012, no.69

The placement of two twisted trees on the right-hand side of the composition, as a framing device to draw the viewer's eye through the picture, is a familiar motif employed by the artist in many of his finished watercolours. The present rapidly executed watercolour study captures the trees, probably from life, and framing a view through to Conway castle beyond. John and his brother Cornelius visited Conway during their trip to Wales in 1802 and there are several studies and finished watercolours of the town and castle.

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