

Two Swiss Girls Seated near Trees

Richard Parkes Bonington



Description

Richard Parkes Bonington (1802-1828)
Two Swiss Girls Seated near Trees

Signed lower right: RPB 1828
Pencil
11.5 by 8.5 cm., 4 ½ by 3 ¼ in.

Provenance:

Thomas Creswick, his sale, Christie's, London, 1st May 1870, lot 134;
Anonymous sale, Christie's, London, 14th November 1976, lot 131;
Anonymous sale, Christie's, London, 22nd March 1988, lot 30;
Private Collection, London

Literature:

Patrick Noon, Richard Parkes Bonington, the Complete Drawings, New Haven & London, 2011, p.181, no. 345

This rapidly executed vignette originates from Bonington's return trip to Paris from Italy in 1826 and shows two young girls in their native Bernese costumes. It is well recorded that he reached Italy via Geneva and Milan so the exhibition of a group of related drawings of Swiss women wearing traditional costume suggests he returned to France via Switzerland and the Bernese Oberland. For the related drawings, see Noon, op. cit., nos. 332, 333, 339, 340 and 346). This later work, dated 1828, may have been intended as the basis for an engraving.