Fishing boats at low tide

Joseph Mallord William Turner, R.A.



REF: 1251

Description

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Joseph Mallord William Turner, R.A. (1775-1851) and Thomas Girtin (1775-1802)
Fishing Boats at Low Tide, Dover

Grey washes over pencil
28.6 by 20.7 cm., 11 ¼ by 8 in.

Provenance:
Arthur Crosland, Heaton Mount, Bradford, Yorkshire, his sale, Christie's, 9th March 1956, lot 20 as by Turner;
An Estate sale, Sotheby's, 11th July 1996, lot 21 as by Turner

This sketch, dating from 1795-96, belongs to a group of views of shipping at Dover copied by Turner and Thomas Girtin from the work of the amateur artist and collector John Henderson. Henderson was a neighbour on Adelphi Terrace, London of Dr Thomas Monro who commissioned work from both Turner and Girtin in the early to mid 1790s. Joseph Farington records in his diary (1st December 1795) that Henderson lent Monro `a Portfolio of outlines of Shipping and boats, made at Dover.' Henderson's sketches were probably drawn in the summer of 1794.

Dr Monro encouraged young artists to come to his London home at 8 Adelphi Terrace to have supper, socialise and copy his drawings. Farington records in December 1794 that it was like an academy and that Turner and Girtin would often collaborate: `Girtin drawing the outlines before passing the sheet to Turner, who would bring it to life through watercolour washes, tints and tones.'

A number of these Dover subjects appeared at Dr Monro's sale at Christie's on 26th June 1833 and were bought by Turner. They were probably lot 118, described as one of nine `Views at Dover, & c., blue and grey' by Turner. Henderson's collection which includes several of his `outlines' passed to his son who bequeathed it to the British Museum. A number of the group are in the Turner Bequest in the Tate Gallery and others are in the Courtauld Institute, National Gallery of Scotland and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge.

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