

Sailing Boats in a Harbour by a ruined Tower

John Christian Schetky

Sold



Description

John Christian Schetky (1778-1874)
Sailing Boats in a Harbour by a ruined Tower

Watercolour over traces of pencil heightened with scratching out and stopping out
35.9 by 47.7 cm., 14 ¼ by 18 ¾ in.

Born in Edinburgh, Schetky was appointed to the post of drawing master at the Royal Naval Academy, Portsmouth in 1811. Whilst there, he came to the notice of the Duke of Clarence, later William IV and his older brother George IV. In 1820, he became Marine Painter-in-Ordinary to the King, serving both George and William: Queen Victoria reappointed him to the position in 1844. He was also Marine Painter to the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes.

The present watercolour is relatively unusual in Schetky's oeuvre, in that the emphasis is rather more on the castle and landscape, than the boats in the harbour. Although the latter are meticulously depicted, with the careful attention to detail, characteristic of the marine artist. There is a pen and ink and wash drawing by the artist that depicts Norham Castle, in a similar composition.