

Scene in the Mountains, descending to St John's Vale, near Keswick

Ramsay Richard Reinagle

Sold



Description

Ramsay Richard Reinagle, R.A. (1775-1862)

Scene in the Mountains, descending to St John's Vale, near Keswick

Signed and inscribed verso: Scene in the Mountains descending to St John's Va.../5 miles from Keswick/RRReinagle R...

Watercolour over pencil heightened with white on blue paper

17.6 by 27 cm., 7 by 10 ½ in.

Provenance:

Colnaghi, London;

Where bought by Iolo A. Williams (1890-1962), May 1954;

By descent until 2024

The son of an artist, Ramsay Richard Reinagle first exhibited at the Royal Academy aged just thirteen. He subsequently trained in Holland before travelling to Italy in 1796-8. He was President of the Society of Painters in Water-colours in 1808-12 and elected a Royal Academician in 1823. Both he and his father were talented copyists and generated extra income by producing copies of Old Masters, particularly of the Dutch School and in carrying out restoration work.

Reinagle visited the Lake District in 1807 with William Havell (see cat. no.15) and the views he encountered provided the artist with inspiration for the rest of his career. He exhibited thirty-one watercolours of Lake District subjects between 1808 and 1823 at the Old Watercolour Society, including five in the first year, amongst which was a view of St John's Vale, looking towards Saddleback, near Keswick, no 77, which was purchased by Lord Aylesford. St John in the Vale is a small valley to the east of Keswick. It is flanked by the steep slopes of the Helvellyn Range, with St John's Beck tumbling through the valley.