Trees at Stapleton, Bristol, 1818

William James Müller



REF: 2582

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Description

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William James Muller (1812-1845)
Trees at Stapleton, Bristol, 1818

Signed with initials lower: Stapleton/WM 1833
Watercolour on grey paper
25.3 by 18.1 cm., 10 by 7 in.

Provenance:
Lord St. Oswald, Nostell Priory;
With Martyn Gregory Gallery, London, 2016

Exhibited:
London, Martyn Gregory Gallery, British Watercolours and Drawings 1750-1900, May 2016, no.49

Müller sketched constantly, almost compulsively, writing: `I want to paint…. It's oozing out of my fingers.' He was often highly experimental, playing with effects of bodycolour and tinted papers to achieve a depth of colour and tone as a foil to the more delicate transparent washes of watercolour.
Interestingly he has signed and inscribed the present work even though it is clearly unfinished. 1833 was the year that he was one of the founders of the Bristol Sketching Club and before his first major overseas tour in the summer of 1834. In the first half of the nineteenth century Stapleton was a small village in the Frome valley two miles to the north-east of the centre of Bristol. It was a popular sketching area for Bristol School artists.

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