

Figures on the shore, looking out to sea, Penmaen Bach, North Wales

David Cox

Sold



Description

David Cox, O.W.S. (1783-1859)

Figures on the shore, looking out to sea, Penmaen Bach, North Wales

Watercolour over pencil heightened with white and scratching out on oatmeal paper

44 by 67 cm., 17 ¼ by 26 ¼ in.

Provenance:

By descent to Harriet Cox, the artist's grand-daughter;

Anonymous sale. Sotheby's London, 9 April 1992, lot 73

Private collection, UK

Cox was familiar with the subject in the present large-scale watercolour, having visited the area several times, including for the first time in the autumn of 1836, whilst working on the series of illustrations for Thomas Roscoe's two volume, *Wanderings and Excursions in North Wales* (1836) and *Wanderings and Excursions in South Wales* (1837).

The present watercolour looks across the beach towards Penmaen Bach, a small mountain which rises 245m above its surroundings, dominating this part of the Conwy coast. Thomas Roscoe, described this area as possessing a gloomy grandeur of character which I should in vain endeavour to describe (Thomas Roscoe, *Wanderings and Excursions in North Wales*, 1836, p. 190), however through adopting a dark palette and employing bold, loose strokes and broad washes, Cox has managed to perfectly convey the atmosphere and effects of the weather on this dramatic coast.