Begging Terrier

Sir Edwin Henry Landseer



REF: 2566

Description

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Sir Edwin Henry Landseer, R.A. (1802-1873)
A Begging Terrier

Signed with initials lower right and indistinctly dated 1822
Pencil
16.6 by 22.9 cm., 6 ½ by 9 in.

Provenance:
The Artist's studio sale, Christie's, 8-15 May 1874, bt. Lewis;
Charles Mansel Lewis (1845-1931);
By descent until sold at Sotheby's, 6th July 2010, lot 238

Landseer sketched constantly to explore compositions, deepen his understanding of a subject or produce an aid memoire, as well as a form of relaxation or entertainment. The spontaneity and emotional response so evident in his drawings has helped cement Landseer's reputation as one of the most skilled draughtsmen of the 19th Century. His ability to work rapidly and incisively was widely admired and his drawings were eagerly sought by his contemporaries Landseer was always fascinated by dogs and kept a number as pets throughout his life. He was a highly gifted animal painter, but his drawings and paintings of dogs were particularly adept. His ability to capture with extraordinary vivacity, their movements, behaviour and individuality, proved hugely popular with Landseer's clients. During the 1830s his paintings of dogs formed a coherent group of works, of which about half were commissions and half were independent subject pictures, often with a narrative content, which found a ready market with his patrons.
This drawing belonged to Charles Mansel Lewis, a Welsh landowner, collector and amateur artist. He was encouraged in his interest in art by William Riviere, then professor of art at the Slade. He was an enthusiastic bidder at Landseer's studio sale in 1874, purchasing predominantly early work and pictures which allowed him to study Landseer's artistic development.

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