A Welsh Girl, Dolgelly, North Wales

Joshua Cristall

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Description

Joshua Cristall (1768-1847)
A Welsh Girl, Dolgelly, North Wales

Signed lower right: J. Cristall 1822
Watercolour over pencil heightened with touches of bodycolour and gum arabic
40.7 by 29.5 cm., 16 by 11 ½ in.

Provenance:
Purchased from the artist and by descent until sold, Sotheby's, 10th July 1980, lot 51;
With Thos. Agnew & Sons, London;
The sale of a Limited Company, Christie's, 17th November 2005, lot 52, where bought by the present owner

Exhibited:
London, Society of Painters in Water-colours, 1823, no.155

Cristall was born in London, was apprenticed to a dealer in china and glass and worked in a porcelain factory before being admitted to the Royal Academy as a student engraver in 1792 aged 24. In the summer of 1802 he went on his first sketching of North Wales, with John and Cornelius Varley and exhibited his first picture at the Royal Academy in 1803. In 1804 he was one of the founding members of the Society of Painters in Water-colours and exhibited there almost every year until his death.
He visited Wales on four occasions, 1802, 1803, 1820 and 1831. The present studio work, dated 1822, is likely to originate from his 1820 tour. Dolgelly or Dolgellau as it is now known, lies on the river Wnion and is the old county town of Merionethshire.
A smaller version of this view dated 1824 was with Guy Peppiatt Fine Art in 2020 (see British Portrait and Figure Drawings, March 2020, p.67, no.64). A watercolour signed and inscribed `near Dolgelly J. Cristall 1820' is in the collection of the National Gallery of Scotland (see Basil Taylor, Joshua Cristall, exhibition catalogue 1975, no.82, p.62).

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