Study of the Vision of Catherine of Aragon

Henry Fuseli

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REF: 2920

Description

Circle of Henry Fuseli, R.A. (1741-1825)
Study of the Vision of Catherine of Aragon

Numbered upper right: 29/30/78
With a pencil study of a man's head verso
Pen and black ink and grey washes over pencil on laid paper
35.8 by 50.7 cm., 14 by 20 in.

Provenance:
Oliver Robin Bagot (1914-2000), Levens Hall, 1974

Literature:
Turner 1775-1851, exhibition catalogue 1974, no.B45, p.180 as by Mauritius Lowe

Exhibited:
London, Royal Academy of Arts, Turner Bicentenary Exhibition, 16th November 1974 to 2nd March 1975, no. B45 as by Mauritius Lowe

This impressive drawing, previously attributed to Mauritius Lowe (1746-1793), relates closely to a painting by Fuseli exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1781 and now Lytham St Annes Museum (see Martin Myrone, Gothic Nightmares - Fuseli, Blake and the Romantic Imagination, exhibition catalogue, 2006, no.100, pp.152-3, ill.). It is based on a scene from Shakespeare's King Henry the Eighth, Act IV, Scene II when Catherine of Aragon, the first wife of King Henry VIII, falls asleep and has a vision. She is shown reclining on her deathbed dreaming of eternal happiness as she reaches up to heavenly figures. However she dies the next morning.

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