La Roche Guyon from across the river Seine, France

John Gendall

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Description

John Gendall (1790-1865)
La Roche Guyon from across the river Seine, France

Watercolour and bodycolour over pencil
20.2 by 27.2 cm., 8 by 10 ¾ in.

Provenance:
With Martyn Gregory, London

Engraved:
By T. Sutherland for M. Sauvan's `Picturesque Tour of the Seine from Paris to the Sea`, published by Ackermann, 1821, no.12

La Roche Guyon is a village on the Seine, dominated by its chateau, about forty miles from Paris. Suger in his twelfth century Life of Louis VI described it as follows: `At the summit of a steep promontory, dominating the bank of the great river Seine, rises a frightful castle without title to nobility, called La Roche, Invisible on the surface, it is hollowed out of a high cliff'.

Gendall was born in Exeter and started life as a servant to a barrister James White, the uncle of the artist John White Abbott. Perhaps encouraged by White, Gendall was in London by 1811 working for Ackermann's where he produced drawings to be engraved. He is best known for this series of French views which were engraved in 1821. He returned to Exeter in the late 1820s where he set himself up as a drawing teacher, carriage painter, carver and gilder.

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