View of the Ca' Foscari on the Grand Canal, Venice

William Callow

Sold

REF: 3135

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Description

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William Callow R.W.S (1812-1908)
View of the Ca' Foscari on the Grand Canal, Venice

Signed and dated lower left: Wm Callow 1854
Watercolour over traces of pencil
32.3 by 47.7 cm., 12 ¾ by 18 ¾ in.

Provenance:
Anonymous sale, Christie's, 21st November 2002, lot 63;
With John Spink;
Private Collection, UK

This is a view looking south-west down the Grand Canal from near the San Toma to Sant'Angelo traghetto stop. In the centre is the gothic palazzo Ca' Foscari now the main building of the Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Callow exhibited a view looking down the Grand Canal from the Ca' Foscari at the Society of Painters in Water-colours in 1855, no.169.

Callow first visited Venice in 1840 when his visit coincided with Turner and they were staying in the same hotel. Callow wrote in his diary: `The next time I met Turner was at Venice, at the Hotel Europa, where we sat opposite at meals and entered into conversation. One evening whilst I was enjoying a cigar in a gondola I saw Turner in another one sketching San Giorgio, brilliantly lit up by the setting sun. I felt quite ashamed of myself idling away my time whilst he was hard at work so late' (William Callow - an Autobiography, edited by H.M. Cundall, 1908, pp.66-67). He returned to the city on his honeymoon in 1846. Venice was Callow's favourite city and his Venetian views are his most sought after pictures.

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