Dresden at Sunset

William Wyld



REF: 2483

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Description

Guy Peppiatt Fine Art Ltd.
Riverwide House, 6 Mason's Yard, Duke St. St. James's, London, SW1Y 6BU
T: 020 7930 3839 M: 07956 968 284 E: guy@peppiattfineart.co.uk www.peppiattfineart.co.uk

William Wyld (1806-1889)
Dresden at Sunset

Signed in red lower right: WWyld
Watercolour heightened with bodycolour
12 by 19 cm., 4 ¾ by 7 ½ in.

This is a view of the left bank of the Elbe looking upstream with the Augustus Bridge to the left. The three visible monuments are, from left to right, the Frauenkirche (destroyed in World War II), the tower and nave of the Catholic Palace Church and the tower of the Dresden Schloss.

Another version of this view by Wyld is in the Victoria and Albert Museum (see Marcia Pointon, Bonington, Francia and Wyld, 1985, no. 29, ill. A smaller version was sold as part of the collection of Gerald Bauer at Christie's on 22nd January 2003, lot 57 for a hammer price of £6,500.

A diplomat and later wine-merchant who spent most of his life in France, Wyld began his career in 1826 as Secretary to the British Consul in Calais, where he was a pupil of Francia. Strongly influenced by Bonington whose work he knew, Wyld visited Algeria in 1833 in the company of the French artist Horace Vernet.

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