Cattle watering in a Wooded Glade

George Barret Jr

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Description

George Barret Junior O.W.S. (1767-1842)
Cattle watering in a Wooded Glade

Watercolour over pencil heightened with stopping out
18.3 by 25.6 cm., 7 ¼ by 10 ¼ in.

Provenance:
John Bibby;
Holbrook Gaskell (1813-1909);
James Orrock (1829-1913), 1904;
With Messrs Dunthorne & Brown, Liverpool;
With Spink Leger, London, 1997;
Private Collection, London

Exhibited:
London, Spink-Leger Pictures, Annual Exhibition of British Watercolours and Drawings, 1997, no. 42;

Literature:
Spink-Leger Pictures, Annual Exhibition of British Watercolours and Drawings, 1997, no. 42, ill.

The present watercolour with its atmospheric depiction of the effects of dappled light and shade is characteristic of Barret's work. The artist was fascinated from an early age by the differing play of light on a scene. Many of his watercolours are evocatively titled, noting the time of day or weather effects, rather than recording the precise locations of his views. Roget noted that Barret would 'go to the same spot and watch the sunrise morning after morning… He used to wait until the effect appeared that suited him and go to the same sketch over and over again at the same hour on different days, working only as long as the particular effect lasted' (John Lewis Roget, A History of the Old Water-Colour Society, 1981, vol. I, p. 177).

Barret was the son of Dublin born artist George Barret Senior (1728/32-1784), a founder member of the Royal Academy and successful landscape painter. Barret Junior in turn was one of the founder members of the Old Watercolour Society in 1804.

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