

## The Acropolis, Athens

Thomas Hartley Cromek

Sold



## Description

Thomas Hartley Cromek (1809-1873)  
The Acropolis, Athens

Watercolour over pencil heightened with gum arabic  
13.7 by 24.1cm., 5 ¼ by 9 ½ in.

This shows the Acropolis with the Temple of Zeus Olympios to the left and the monument of Philopappos on a hill in the distance. Cromek visited Athens twice, in the summer of 1834 and again in 1844 when he spent two months drawing its principal monuments.

'I was delighted by everything I saw at Athens: the colour of the buildings being much richer, and less dark than that of the ruins in Rome. As specimens of architecture, they are universally considered perfect. I certainly worked very hard when able, and I am astonished at the number of sketches, large and small which I made in the course of a fortnight or very little more' (Thomas Hartley Cromek, *Reminiscences at Home and Abroad 1812-1855*, August 23rd, 1834).

Cromek was born in London, the son of engraver, and was apprenticed to a portrait painter in Wakefield, Yorkshire. He soon became a landscape painter and lived and worked on the continent, and mainly in Rome, from 1831 to 1849. He built up a successful teaching practice there until 1849 when he was forced home by Garibaldi's threatened attack on Rome

Provenance:  
The Cheney Family of Badger Hall, Shropshire;  
With Colnaghi, London, 1972

Exhibited:  
London, Colnaghi, Thomas Hartley Cromek - Exhibition of watercolours and drawings of Italy, Greece and the Mediterranean, 29 Feb-30 March 1972, no.46