

Figures by a Pond in a Wooded Landscape, probably Leigh Woods

The Rev. John Eagles



Description

The Rev. John Eagles (1783-1855)

Figures by a Pond in a Wooded Landscape, probably Leigh Woods

Inscribed lower centre: Mr Eagles 1812 and again lower right: Mr Eagles

Watercolour over traces of pencil heightened with stopping out on two sheets of wove paper joined 20.1 by 31.7 cm., 8 by 11 ½ in.

Provenance:

L.G. Duke, C.B.E., his sale, Sotheby's, 16th July 1970, lot 61, bt. Eames;

With Guy Peppiatt Fine Art, 2006;

Private collection until 2023

Eagles was born in Bristol and educated at Winchester and Wadham College, Oxford. After a tour of Italy, he returned to Bristol to be Curate of St. Nicholas Church. The present watercolour dates from that period and is probably a view in Leigh Woods, Bristol, a popular sketching area for the Bristol School artists. A signed watercolour by Eagles inscribed 'Leigh Wood June 14 1812' is recorded in the collection of Dr and Mrs John Eagles (see Bristol City Art Gallery, *The Bristol School of Artists*, exhibition catalogue 1973, no.295). This watercolour shows the influence Eagles's work later had on William James Müller, a fellow Bristol artist (see no. 14). N.N. Solly reports Muller as saying 'I have derived immense advantage from Mr Eagles' excellent judgement in line and composition' (see N.N. Solly, *Life of W.J. Müller*, 1875).