The Rialto Bridge, Venice

William Callow

Sold



REF: 3053

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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 Callow, R.W.S. (1812-1908)
The Rialto Bridge, Venice

Signed lower right; W.Callow 1841
Watercolour over pencil heightened with bodycolour and scratching out
33.4 by 48.9 cm., 12 ¾ by 19 ¼ in.

Provenance:
Sir George Markham Giffard (1813-1870)

Exhibited:
Probably London, Society of Painters in Water-colours, 1841, no.101, as `The Rialto at Venice'

This studio work is based on sketches made by Callow on his first visit to the city in 1840. His stay coincided with J.M.W.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).

This view of the Rialto was taken from near the Albergo Leone Bianco and was a popular one for artists. Turner's version of the view in the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

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