The Rialto Bridge, Venice

William Callow

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REF: 3232

Description

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

Signed lower left: W. Callow and indistinctly dated 1842
Watercolour over pencil, heightened with touches of bodycolour and scratching out
25.1 by 36 cm., 9 ¾ by 14 in.

Provenance:
With Spink and Son Ltd, 1981

This is a view of the Rialto Bridge from the north side with the spire of the church of San Bartolomeo visible behind to the left and the Palazzo dei Camerlenghi to the right.

Callow first visited Venice in 1840 when his visit coincided with 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). Venice was Callow's favourite city and his Venetian views are his most sought after pictures.

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