# Kirkstall Abbey, Yorkshire

Francis Nicholson



REF: 2250

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Description

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Francis Nicholson, O.W.S. (1753-1844)

Watercolour over pencil on original washline mount
29.8 by 41.8 cm., 11 ¾ by 16 ¼ in.

Born in Pickering, Yorkshire, Nicholson and his family moved to Knaresborough in 1792. Despite a growing reputation and his market becoming increasingly centred on London, with the artist regularly sending works to the annual exhibitions, as well as supplying topographical views for Copper Plate Magazine, the artist resisted moving to London until 1803. He was fascinated by advances in materials and became increasingly experimental with his technique. In 1799 he received an award from the Society of Artists for his developments with the technique for stopping out. It was perhaps this reputation for experimenting with watercolour that made him a popular teacher. He was a founder member of the Watercolour Society in 1804, but resigned in 1813 in order to concentrate his efforts on experimenting with materials. He published his findings in a Practice of Drawing and Painting Landscapes from Nature in Watercolour, in 1820.

Kirkstall Abbey stands on the river Aire about three miles north-west of the centre of Leeds. Another view of Kirkstall Abbey by Nicholson was engraved by J. Walker and published in 1799.


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