A View of Barmouth, North Wales

John Varley

Sold

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Description

John Varley (1778-1842)
A View of Barmouth, North Wales

Signed lower right: J. Varley 1803 and signed on part of old mount: View of Barmouth N Wales from the opposite Banks of Cader Id…/J.Varley 1803
Watercolour over traces of pencil on laid paper
16.5 by 25 cm., 6 ½ by 9 ¾ in.

Provenance:
W/S Fine Art, London, 2007;
Private Collection Herefordshire to 2024

Literature:
Andrew Wyld, Landscape on Paper - British Watercolours, Paintings and Drawings 1650-1850, 2007, no.19, ill. full page

Exhibited:
London, W/S Fine Art Ltd, Landscape on Paper, 6th June to 6th July 2007, no.19

The present watercolour was drawn during Varley's tour of Wales in 1803, accompanied by his brother Cornelius, who also produced a similar view (see cat. 65).

Barmouth lies in a dramatic position on the estuary of the River Mawddach and Cardigan Bay, with the mountains of Cader Idris rising behind. William Wordsworth wrote in 1824: 'I took a boat and rowed on its sublime Estuary, which many compare with the finest in Scotland. With a fine sea view in front, the mountains behind, the glorious estuary running eight miles inland, and Cader Idris within compass of a day's walk, Barmouth can always hold its own against any rival.' (Letter to Sir George Beaumont, 20th Sept. 1824).

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