

John White Abbott



Trees at Canonteign, Devon

£ 3,200.00

Reference: 10832

Dimensions:

Height: 26.90 cm / 10⁵/₈ in

Width: 37.90 cm / 14⁷/₈ in

KT634

inscribed and dated 'Canonteign July 24. 1829 [?]' on the reverse, pencil, pen and brown ink and grey wash 26.9 x 37.9 cm.; 10 ½ x 14 7/8 inches

Provenance:

Agnew's, London. Anonymous sale, Phillips, London, 16 July 1996, lot 16; with Heather Newman, Painswick, Gloucestershire.

Abbott was one of the best amateur watercolourists of the late Eighteenth Century. A surgeon and apothecary, he lived

KAREN TAYLOR

FINE ART

in Exeter until 1825. He exhibited paintings at the Royal Academy from 1793, receiving contemporary acclaim for the style of his work. The artist John Downman said that 'he prefers his drawings before his paintings, as they are done with more spirit' (J. Farington, Diary 26 June 1804; vol. VI, p. 2362).

In 1825 Abbott inherited Fordland, a Devon estate, from his uncle James White, an Exeter barrister, Nonconformist and close friend of Francis Towne. Abbott became a patron and pupil of Towne's, and his linear style shows the artist's influence. After moving to Fordland he devoted himself to drawing.