

John Sell Cotman



The Elephanta Caves, Mumbai

Reference: 10857

Dimensions:

Height: 12.70 cm / 5 in
Width: 21.20 cm / 8³/₈ in

Watercolour over traces of pencil heightened with gum arabic and stopping out
12.7 x 21.2 cm.; 5 x 8 2/8 inches

Provenance

Martyn Gregory Fine Art

This colourful watercolour dates from 1833-4 and is based on a sketch made on the spot by Commander Robert Elliot, R.N. (1790-1849) in the early 1820s. Several professional watercolour artists copied his sketches, amongst them Thomas Shotter Boys, David Cox, William Purser, Samuel Prout and Clarkson Stanfield, and their watercolours were engraved and published in 1834-5 as Views in India, China, and on the Shores of the Red Sea. The present watercolour was not engraved, but other views made for this series by Cotman are in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London and the Harris Museum and Art Gallery, Preston.

KAREN TAYLOR

FINE ART

The Elephanta Caves, on Elephanta Island off Mumbai are a UNESCO World Heritage Site, famous for their rock-architecture and carvings. This watercolour is taken from inside the most famous cave.