

Edward Lear



The plains of Lombardy from Monte Generoso

£ 8,500.00

Reference: 10910

Dimensions:

Height: 25 cm / 9⁷/₈ in

Width: 51.50 cm / 20¹/₄ in

Inscribed and dated l.l.: Monte Generoso/1879, and further inscribed with colour notes, pen and brown ink over pencil

25 x 51.5 cm; 9 7/8 x 20 1/4 inches

£8500

Lear returned to Varese and Monte Generoso, on the border between Italy and Switzerland between lakes Lugano and Como, from June 29 to September 22 1879. He stayed at Mendrisio, across the Swiss border in Ticino. He enjoyed sketching the views south across the plains, as in the present watercolour and the mountains stretching up to the Alps. Marianne North the botanical artist came to Como towards the end of his stay and they made a trip to Monte Civita near Monza together.

This drawing is taken from a similar vantage point to that of an oil of the same subject dated 1880 in the collection of the Ashmolean Museum (WA196.39).

KAREN TAYLOR

FINE ART

An unpublished poem “The Lays of the Octopods’ about the perils of mass tourism at Monte Generoso has recently come to light in the British Library.