

French School c. 1825



The Arch of Titus and the Forum, Rome

Reference: 11207

Dimensions:

Height: 20.50 cm / 8 $\frac{1}{8}$ in

Width: 25.10 cm / 9 $\frac{7}{8}$ in

Oil on laid paper laid down on canvas

20.5 x 25.1 cm.; 8 1/8 x 9 7/8 inches

Provenance

Private collection, USA, until 2025

This charming plein air sketch was made not long after the completion of the restoration of the Arch of Titus in 1824. During the early nineteenth century the integrity of the structure was spoilt by the remains of medieval stone walls and

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FINE ART

accumulations of rubble at the sides. These were cleared in the early 1820s by Giuseppe Valadier (1762-1839) who restored the Arch to something approaching its original (and current) appearance. The artist differentiates between the original Pentelic marble and the white Travertine used for the newly carved sections of the monument.

On the Via Sacra to the south-east of the Forum, the Arch of Titus was designed to glorify the memory of the emperor Titus and his official deification or consecratio. It was built shortly after the death of Titus in 81AD by his brother Domitian, who succeeded him as emperor.