

John 'Warwick' Smith



The Caernarvonshire Mountains, Wales

Reference: 11244

Dimensions:

Height: 13 cm / 5 $\frac{1}{8}$  in

Width: 20.80 cm / 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  in

Inscribed on original label now attached to backboard: General Distant View of the Carnarvonshire Mountains, seen from the road beyond Llangerniew, /going by the Vale of the Elwyn from St Asaph to Llanrwst-Principal in this Towering Group, are Moel Siabod, Snowdon, The Glyders/ and Trevaon Denbighshire, watercolour over pencil.

13 x 20.8 cm.; 5 1/8 x 8 1/4 inches

Provenance

George Greville, 2nd Earl of Warwick (1746-1816), no. 17, part of an album sold at Sotheby's, 17 June 1936;

With Leger Galleries, 1980; Christie's, London, 20 November 1984, lot 113, where bought by a private collector, until 2024

Smith seems to have been fascinated by the Welsh countryside and dated drawings, often inscribed 'taken on the spot', point to visits nearly every year from 1784-1798, after his return from Italy.

# KAREN TAYLOR

## FINE ART

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The artist was born in Cumberland and patronised by 2nd Earl of Warwick who sponsored his travels to Italy in 1776 and whose name became the artist's sobriquet. Smith spent five years in Rome and Naples, befriending William Pars and Thomas Jones, in whose Memoirs he is frequently referenced. He travelled home in 1781 through Switzerland with Francis Towne and was among the most admired watercolourists of his day.