JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

An extensive Evening Landscape with a Drover and Cattle by a Pool in the Foreground

ABRAHAM PETHER

£ POA



REF: 374824

Height: 63.5 cm (25")

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London, England

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Width: 74.7 cm (29.4")

Framed Height: 80.2 cm (31.6")

Framed Width: 92.3 cm (36.3")

Description

ABRAHAM PETHEREnglish School1756-1812An extensive Evening Landscape with a Drover and Cattle by a Pool in the Foreground

Oil on canvas, signed with monogram and dated 179463.5 x 74.7 cms25 x 293/8 inches Overall framed size 80.2 x 92.3 cms 315/8 x 363/8 ins One of a family of five painters, Abraham was born in Chichester in 1756, and was a cousin of the renowned engraver and miniaturist, William Pether (1731-c.1795).Abraham showed great talent as a musician in childhood and played the organ in a Chichester church at the age of nine. However, he resolved to become an artist and was a pupil of George Smith, one of the three Smith brothers from Chichester who were notable local landscape painters. The association had begun when William Pether made a fine mezzotint of the Smith brothers which was published in 1765. Abraham initially painted in his tutor's style but then enlarged on it by incorporating some elements of Richard Wilson as well as displaying a knowledge and influence of the 17th Dutch masters such as A van Everdingen. He moved to London and began an industrious and fruitful career showing at the annual exhibitions in the capital.He was particularly adept at capturing the feel of the light and atmosphere of the environs that he was depicting and imbuing a sense of an English arcadia. From about 1784, he specialised a good deal in moonlit scenes which earned him the sobriquet "Moonlight Pether". His night-time Eruption of Vesuvius; Fire at Drury Lane, An iron foundry by moonlight; The Thames and Greenwich Hospital by moonlight and Fire by Moonlight were favourable comparisons to similar works by Joseph Wright of Derby who was regarded as the finest exponent of this genre. Pether painted other Italian views as well as his more common English scenes which were taken from such diverse areas as Hampshire, Sussex, Essex, Cumberland, Warwickshire and London.He was also a busy and clever inventor, building his own microscopes and telescopes as well as devising a new type of pencil. He gave lectures on electricity utilising instruments which he had constructed, but this alternative career, although much talked about, was usually done so in a derisory manner. It is as a painter that he is regarded today but his scientific knowledge and curiosity is still evident in some of his paintings, particularly in his moonlit landscapes, where the astronomical conditions are properly rendered in paint, a good example being Harvest moon which was an exhibit at the Royal Academy in 1795.Pether exhibited 61 works at the Royal Academy, 24 at the Society of Artists, 39 at the Free Society and one at the British Institute. Exhibited titles include A View in Kensington Gardens; Small landscape and cattle; Evening – with a cornfield from nature; Mount Vesuvius; Morning, with a view of Kirkstall Abbey in Yorkshire; Effect of the sun just before a shower and Rest on the flight into Egypt. Despite the popularity of his work, the demands of supporting his family of nine children was a severe burden and he was always struggling financially. He contracted a disease which be...

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