JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

Fly Fishing in Scotland

JAMES WILLIAM GILES

Sold

London, England

+44 (0) 20 8748 1747

REF: 150812

Framed Height: 95.25 cm (37.5")

Framed Width: 125.73 cm (49.5")

Description

JAMES WILLIAM GILES R.S.A. 1801-1870 Scottish SchoolFly Fishing in Scotland Oil on board, signed and dated 185825.5 x 38 cms10 x 15 ins Overall framed size 37.5 x 49.5 cms
14¾ x 19½ ins
James Giles was born in Glasgow in 1801, the son of a textile designer. It appears that the family moved to Aberdeen when he was comparatively young as he studied at the Aberdeen Art School and he spent most of his life there, sending his paintings for exhibition from an address in Bon Accord Street.

Giles had shown an early aptitude for painting and was decorating the lids of snuff boxes with animal and human portraits when aged only thirteen. While he was studying anatomy he was also teaching drawing at the Aberdeen public drawing classes and when not engaged in either of these, would venture out into the Highlands to sketch from nature.

In 1823, he made a very advantageous marriage to Clementine Farquharson which gave him the financial stability and support to travel abroad to both study and paint. He went first to London where he received his first formal art instruction and then to Paris to train under the French history painter Jean François Regnault. After that, he spent a year travelling through Italy where he made forty copies of Old Master paintings which were exhibited in the Ashmolean, Oxford in 1970.

His Italian journey started in 1824 where he went to initially to Genoa via Toulon and Marseilles. From there he travelled to Florence, Siena and then Rome where he spent Christmas 1824 and then on to Naples before making his return to Scotland by way of Venice and Switzerland. A critic wrote of him: "The many watercolours he made on this trip reveal his ability as an artist with a delicate but sure touch and sense of light and shade." Sparrow says of him: "A sensitivity to atmosphere and effects of sun and cloud and storm and the power of rendering his impressions freely and directly that remind one inevitably of Turner at his best and boldest…his sky studies are strikingly original…" Some of these watercolours were subsequently worked up into large oils.

Back in Scotland he founded the Aberdeen Artists Society with Archibald Simpson in 1827 and in 1829 he became one of the original twenty-six members of the Royal Scottish Academy was also awarded the Hope and Cockburn.in that year. He continued painting topographical pictures, principally in watercolour and at this time he developed an interest in landscape gardening resulting in his advising the Earl of Kintore and the 4th Earl of Aberdeen for Haddo House. The latter also commissioned eighty-five drawings which were later published as, "Drawings of Aberdeenshire Castles," in 1936.

Giles's friend Hugh Irvine was instrumental in introducing him to many local lairds and commissions ensued. In 1839 the 2nd Duke of Sutherland commissioned him to produce watercolours of his huge estate. Queen Victoria then instructed him to capture a likeness and perspective views of the original castle of Balmoral in 1852 to enable...

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