

Landscape with Ruined Castle

Robert Adam

Sold



Description

Robert Adam (1728-1792)
Landscape with Ruined Castle

Pen and grey and brown ink and grey wash on laid paper, with watermark with cartouche
19 by 31 cm., 7 ½ by 12 ¼ in.

Provenance:
With P. & D. Colnaghi, London;
J. S. Maas & Co Ltd, London, 1963;
James Lees-Milne (1908-1997);
Private collection, UK

Exhibited:
London, J. S. Maas & Co, Ltd, Christmas Exhibition, 1963, no. 1

Robert Adam, one of the most successful and celebrated architects in Britain was also a talented landscape draughtsman. Throughout his career he created idealized landscape compositions for personal pleasure. His interest in landscape was partly governed by how architecture related to and could augment its surroundings, and partly in exploring and discovering Picturesque subjects.

Whilst at university in Edinburgh, Adam took lessons at one of the city's drawing schools and apparently considered pursuing a career as a landscape painter. Subsequently, one of his early projects assisted in the rebuilding of the Highland forts after the Jacobite uprising of 1745. Paul and Thomas Sandby were also involved in the work, as part of the Board of Ordnance, and Adam undertook further study at this time with the Sandbys. His style and technique were further developed whilst on his two-year tour of Italy in 1755-57.

James Lees-Milne was an English writer, novelist, biographer, architectural historian and expert on Country Houses, who worked for the National Trust between 1936 and 1973.