JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

A View of the Thames from Richmond Hill with children picking blackberries in the foreground

THOMAS CHRISTOPHER HOFLAND R.B.A.

£ POA

London, England

+44 (0) 20 8748 1747

REF: 374752

Height: 22.5 cm (8.9")

Width: 31.5 cm (12.4")

Framed Height: 32.2 cm (12.7")

Framed Width: 41 cm (16.1")

Description

THOMAS CHRISTOPHER HOFLAND RBA1777-1843 English SchoolA View of the Thames from Richmond Hill with children picking blackberries in the foreground Oil on copper, inscribed and dated 18th June 182722.5 x 31.5 cms87/8 x 127/8 inchesOverall framed size 32.2 x 41cms 125/8 x 161/8 ins Ex Collection: The Earl Howe CBEChristie's 24th November 1978Probably the painting exhibited at the Royal Society of British Artists 1827 no.157 "Richmond Hill – a Sketch from Nature".

Thomas Christopher Hofland, was born at Worksop on Christmas Day, 1777, the son of a skilled and wealthy manufacturer of machinery used in cotton mills. His stay in the town of his birth was brief though for his father moved to London and was living in Lambeth in 1780 where his business from thence forward was unsuccessful, reducing the family to poverty.

Thomas Christopher was largely self-taught as a painter, although for a while he did receive instruction from the landscape painter John Rathbone, and he resolved to become a professional painter to help his family after the ruin of their business. He was primarily a landscape painter and he travelled all over England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland to find his subject-matter. In England, he favoured the Lake District, Yorkshire and Derbyshire as well as numerous views along the Thames, particularly Richmond, as he lived in Kew from 1799 to 1806 teaching art. He moved to Derby in 1806, remaining there until 1808 before returning to London.

He married the writer and poet Barbara Wreaks in 1810 who was known for her moral didactic children's stories and school text books and although Hofland was an established and exhibited painter, her income was always in excess if his. She was also a friend of John Soane and he asked her to write a description of his museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields. They lived initially in Newman St W1 but in 1816 moved to Twickenham but were back in Richmond by about 1839 having resided in several London addresses in between including Twickenham, Hammersmith, Kensington, Newman Street and Bedford Square.

Hofland found many patrons from some highly influential figures for his work, including George III, who commissioned him early in his career to produce a series of drawings of the plants and flowers which had recently come into the Royal Gardens. He also painted houses for their owners and there are frequent examples including Descriptive Account of the Mansions and Gardens of Whiteknights. White Knights, near Reading, was the seat of the Duke of Marlborough and this work was commissioned by the Duke to record the architectural features in the garden and landscape such as grottoes, seats, fountains and bridges. These were to be painted and drawn by Hofland as an illustrated account with some of the text supplied by Barbara Hofland in a book published in 1819 although the work on it was started in 1816. It seems that the Duke, who was notorious for not settling some of his bills, never paid the artist for his work, even though Hofland had funded the publishing of the volume. Barbara came acros...

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