JOHN BENNETT fine paintings

“Painting; a study”

JAMES DIGMAN WINGFIELD

£ POA



REF: 374818

Height: 35.7 cm (14.1")

1

London, England

+44 (0) 20 8748 1747

Width: 35 cm (13.8")

Framed Height: 48.6 cm (19.1")

Framed Width: 48.6 cm (19.1")

Description

JAMES DIGMAN WINGFIELD 1812-1872English School “Painting; a study” Oil on panel, painted tondo, signed and inscribed on reverse 35.7 x 35 cms14 x 133/4 inchesOverall framed size 48.6 x 48.6 cms 191/8 x 191/8 inches Possibly the picture exhibited at the British Institution in 1852, no. 173 Ex Collection: David Pleydell-Bouverie, grandson of the 5th Earl of Radnor J D Wingfield – also sometimes recorded as James Dignam or Dignum - was a painter of interiors, portraits, historical subjects and landscapes as well as being an occasional draughtsman for wood engravings and etchings. M H Grant says of him that he was “…a would-be British Watteau, painting courtly garden fêtes and elegant assemblies, often in the costume of the Carolean age, also palace interiors, their saloons crowded with aristocrats gorgeously costumed.”He was born on 20th October in Westminster to Francis Wingfield and his wife Susanna, née Wilds, who had been married on 21st November 1808 at St Mary’s in Marylebone. James was baptised on 19th November 1812 at St James’s in Westminster. It is not known who gave him instruction in painting but he exhibited his first painting, as a twenty year old, in 1832, at the British Institution. This was A view of Kingston Bridge and was sent from an address in Gray’s Inn in London. In the same year, he also showed his first work at the Royal Society of British Artists which was A collier stranded, Brighton. Wingfield’s first exhibit at the Royal Academy was Portrait of a lady in 1835 but he went on to show thirty-eight paintings in all there with a further forty-one at the RBA, ninety-four at the BI, six at the Suffolk Fine Arts Association and thirty-nine at other exhibition venues.On 27th December 1836, the young artist married Elizabeth Booth at March in Cambridgeshire and the marriage certificate, like his baptismal registration, has him recorded as being James Dignam Wingfield. It is thought that the use of the name Digman stems from a misspelling at one or more of the exhibition venues so that it has persisted ever since in the art world. However, the indignity of the erroneous recording of his name persisted at his death when he was buried at Brompton Cemetery in London on 20th April 1872 and his name is given as James Dignum Wingfield. Although he is probably most renowned as depicting scenes in a historical setting, often based in or around Hampton Court, Wingfield, in his earlier years, often painted portraits such as The Falconer, The Fisherman’s Daughter and Belinda. He travelled in France, the Netherlands and Italy in addition to his journeys around England, Wales and Scotland and the ensuing landscapes resulting from these travels also formed a proportion of his work. Exhibited titles include Windermere, calm evening, On the Thames, Medenham, A summer’s day, Bushy Park; Boats off Brighton and Le Jardin Anglais à Fontainebelau.The Wingfield family, comprised of James and Elizabeth and six children, were living in Chelsea in the 1840...

London, England

2

+44 (0) 20 8748 1747