



The Contents of Lowood House (654)

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Lot 153

Estimate: £10000 - £15000 + Fees

LORD FREDERIC LEIGHTON P.R.A., R.W.S. (BRITISH 1830-1896) AN ABBEY IN THE MOUNTAINS

Oil on canvas

39.5cm x 25cm (15.5in x 9.75in)

Note:

While the exact location of this study remains unidentified, it was perhaps exhibited at the Royal Society of British Artists in 1895 as *Convent on Capri* (no. 32). If so, it would most likely represent the charterhouse of San Giacomo, with the characteristic white cloisters surrounded by barrel vaulted buildings on the left and a church seen to the right. From the hill where the abbey is located Leighton painted also an untraced study of the famous Faraglioni Rocks in 1875, in the company of Giovanni Costa. On the other hand, the vantage point in Leighton's painting seems improbable unless he applied an artificially foreshortened perspective, given that the abbey is situated very close to the plunging cliffside. Alternative locations could perhaps include Greece or Spain. The emphatically upright format and the extremely high horizon seem to be an extension of Leighton's experiments at the mountainous Cervara di Roma in the 1850s, and the treatment of architecture and the flowing brushwork of the landscape are typical of his open-air work.

Discover more about the landscapes of Leighton and Corbet by clicking below to read a fascinating introduction by art historian Pola Durajska.

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