

STEPHEN ONGPIN FINE ART



Jean-Antoine CONSTANTIN (Marseille 1756 - Aix-en-Provence 1844)

Landscape with a Shepherd and his Flock by a Stream

Pen and brown ink and brown and grey wash, with framing lines in brown ink.

570 x 441 mm. (22 1/2 x 17 3/8 in.)

Artist description:

The painter, draughtsman and engraver Jean-Antoine Constantin, known as Constantin d'Aix, spent almost his entire career in Provence and the south of France. After training at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in his native Marseille, where he also worked as a decorative painter for a porcelain manufactory, he completed his studies in Rome under Joseph-Marie Vien at the Académie de France. Constantin spent six years in Rome, and on his return to France began to establish a reputation as a landscape painter.

Between 1786 and 1795 he taught at the municipal drawing school in Aix-en-Provence, and later continued his teaching in Digne. He made his debut at the Paris Salon in 1817, winning a gold medal, and also exhibited there in 1822, 1827 and 1831. As a painter and draughtsman, Constantin was especially influenced by the work of such 17th century Dutch landscapists as Karel Dujardin and Salomon van Ruysdael. Among his pupils were François-Marius Granet and the Comte Auguste de Forbin, who later became director of the Louvre and purchased several works by Constantin for the museum's collection, as well as helping him gain several commissions.

Constantin's finished drawings were much in demand by local collectors, and examples are today in the museums of Aix-en-Provence and Marseille, as well as in the Ecole des Beaux-Arts and the Louvre in Paris.