Looking Towards Otterton and Ladram from Woodbury Common, Devon

John Mair

$3,950

David Brooker Fine Art
UK: +44 (0)7870 851 498 • US +1 203 232 2807
info@davidbrooker.com • www.davidbrooker.com

REF: 2367

Height: 30.47 cm (12")

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Width: 81.25 cm (32")

Description

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Looking Towards Otterton and Ladram from Woodbury Common, Devon

19th Century

Oil on canvas

Signed lower right

23.5 x 74 cm (31 x 82 cm framed)

A particularly attractive panoramic landscape by the English painter John Mair, depicting the celebrated view across Woodbury Common towards Otterton and the distinctive coastline at Ladram Bay in East Devon. Painted during the nineteenth century, the work captures the expansive beauty of the Devon countryside, where rolling heathland, cultivated fields, and distant sea views combine to create one of the most picturesque landscapes in the West Country.

The composition is distinguished by its unusually elongated format, allowing the artist to convey the breadth and grandeur of the scene. A winding path leads the eye through the foreground, where riders traverse the common amidst flowering heather and gorse. Beyond, the landscape opens dramatically towards the distant coastline, with the blue waters of the English Channel visible on the horizon beneath an ever-changing sky of passing clouds and sunlight.

John Mair demonstrates a fine understanding of atmosphere and topography, carefully balancing detailed foreground passages with softer, more atmospheric treatment in the distance. The painting possesses a freshness and luminosity characteristic of Victorian landscape painting, while also serving as a valuable record of a much-loved Devon view that remains recognisable today.

Woodbury Common forms part of the extensive heathland of East Devon, an area renowned for its natural beauty and sweeping vistas. The view towards Otterton and Ladram Bay has long attracted artists and visitors alike, offering a striking combination of inland countryside and coastal scenery. The distinctive red sandstone cliffs of the Devon coast, visible in the distance, provide an important geographical anchor within the composition.

Beautifully painted and highly decorative, the work combines historical interest, regional significance, and strong visual appeal. It represents an excellent example of nineteenth-century English landscape painting and would particularly suit collectors of Devon views, Victorian landscapes, and traditional British countryside scenes.

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