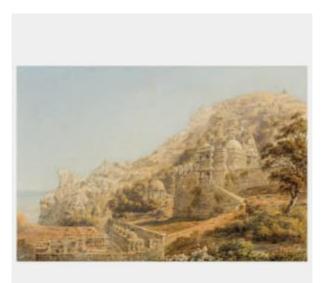
AMIR MOHTASHEMI



William Simpson (Glasgow, Scotland 1823 - Willesden, England 1899)

William Simpson Watercolour depicting Chittorgarh Fort

Rajasthan, India, 19th century

Watercolour on paper

14.5cm high, 21.5cm wide

Stock no.: A5621

A scene depicting a view of the famous fort at Chittor, Rajasthan. The fort stands on a hill and acted a complex; it also served as the capital of Mewar. Within the fort lie several temples and water tanks. Thi pays close attention to the architectural structures whilst also depicting the landscape in an evocative wa walls above and the recessed temple structure below highlight the fact that the structure is built on a hill detail of the stonework of the walls and the *chattris* (cupolae), as well as the texture of the rock face, a attention.

Although the watercolour is not signed, the style of painting closely resembles that of the Scottish artist W who was born in Glasgow on 28 October 1823. Simpson's London employers, the lithography firm Da commissioned him to travel around India sketching well-known sites. He spent time in and around De sketching battle damage inflicted during the Siege of Delhi. He arrived in Calcutta in 1859, travelling v returning to London in 1862. In his autobiography, he mentions a sejourn in Rajasthan (Rajpootana), fir Udaipur (Oodeypoore) and then to Chittorgarh (Chittore Ghur). He describes the latter, saying 'this placarchitecture' and refers to the 'flat topped hills.'¹ It is thus possible that this watercolour was painted dur Chittorgarh.

Other Simpson paintings and watercolours from this time, in his inimitable style, can be viewed in the Vi Museum, London. The highly detailed architectural work in combination with the slightly grainy texture cre wet paint is mirrored in a painting of the Kailasantha temple at Ellora (accession no. <u>1167-1869</u>). *A* landscapes shows very similar attention to the rocky outcrops (see, for example, accession nos <u>D.630-1</u> <u>1900</u>).

Though this watercolour is unsigned and undated, of Simpson's 248 recognised works, 35 have no sig

further 19 have neither date nor signature. Amongst these are a series of watercolours completed durin India, including studies of members of the Bengal Infantry and Cavalry, a view of the Malabar Hill in Bom and a painting of Fort Agra. Furthermore, he documented the British Eclipse Expedition at Bekal, in unsigned sketch of 1871.²

n.b. accession nos are clickable links

¹ Simpson, William. *The Autobiography of William Simpson, RI*. Edited by George Eyre-Todd. Lond Unwin, 1903. pp. 139-140

² 'William Simpson list of paintings', The Mitchell Library, retrieved from https://libcat.csglasgow.org/documents/836643/988153/William+Simpson+Collection+list+of+paint 4147-42f8-a1e0-5d0ed4f41d64