

## ANTONIO JOLI

Born in Modena, Italy, 1700

Died in Naples, Italy, 1777

*A Capriccio with View of a Portico with Alexander the Great at the Tomb of Achilles*

Oil on canvas, 43.2 x 61 cm

## PROVENANCE

Professor John Stevens Henslow (1796–1861)

Sale London, Christie's, 6 July 1861, lot 98, sold to the Marquis of Bristol

Frederick, third Marquis of Bristol (1834–1907), and thence from descent to his heirs in Ickworth, Suffolk, until 1995 ca

Private collection, United Kingdom

Antonio Joli received his training in his hometown at the workshop of Raffaello Rinaldo called *Il Menia*, a painter of perspectives. At the age of twenty, he perfected his training in Panini's flourishing workshop in Rome where he also had a chance to study the work of Codazzi and to widen his horizon in a genre destined to become very popular internationally. Joli returned to Modena in 1725, after a brief stay in Perugia where he participated in the decoration of *palazzo Donnini* and *palazzo Crispoldi*, then in 1732 he moved to Venice. In the lagoon city he encountered the theatre world and began a significant career as a scenographer, which he continued until the end of his working life. In the following decade he visited various European courts, such as, England, Germany and Spain. This European experience turned out to be of great importance, not only for acquiring esteem and friendships but also, most importantly, for his artistic maturity. In those years and until the end of his life, his emphasis on perspective is replaced by a wide-angle view, borrowed from Vanvitelli and Canaletto.

From this time on, and thanks to his activity as *vedutista*, he became the most sought-after painter by foreign travelers visiting Italy: Sir William Hamilton and Lord John Montague Brudenell were among his patrons. Finally, in 1762, the artist moved to Naples for good, where he worked as a scenographer for the *San Carlo* Theatre.

Both Antonio Joli and Giovanni Paolo Panini produced various versions of this subject: a much larger one made by Joli is kept at the Paisley Museum and Art Galleries, Renfrewshire<sup>1</sup>. A very similar version made by Panini was sold by Christie's, New York, 14 January 1993, batch 77.

---

<sup>1</sup> 122 x 182.9 cm.; si veda R. Toledano, *Antonio Joli*, Torino 2006, p. 95, cat. no. C.V.3.