

CHRISTOFFER WILHELM ECKERSBERG

1783 BLÅKRUG – COPENHAGEN 1853

View from the Battery towards the City (Udsigt fra Batteriet imod byen)

Pen and black ink, pencil and grey wash on paper.

Signed and dated: *Eckersberg fec. 1836* and inscribed on the back: *Eckersberg 7 Sept. 1836*.

185 x 315 mm

PROVENANCE: The artist's estate sale, Copenhagen, January 1854, lot 375; there described "a view from *Trekroner*. Indian ink; very elaborate", Copenhagen – Private Collection, Denmark

LITERATURE: *C. W. Eckersbergs dagbøger 1810-1837*, vol. 1, Copenhagen 2009, p. 703 – Anja Dauschek, Regine Gerhardt, Vanessa Hirsch, *Melbye – Maler des Meeres*, exhib. cat., Historische Museen Hamburg, Altonaer Museum, Hamburg 2017-18, pp. 65 and 96, repr.

EXHIBITIONS: Anja Dauschek, Regina Gerhardt and Vanessa Hirsch, *Melbye – Maler des Meeres*, exhib. cat., 20. September 2017 until 4. February 2018, Altonaer Museum, Hamburg, p. 65, repr.

Eckersberg wrote in his diary on 7 September 1836: "Went to the battery at 9 o'clock to see the Russian ships, but the wind was not good for sailing. Went ashore with Normann and his wife at 11 o'clock and on board again with them at 1 o'clock, it became calm. – Drew a view from the battery towards the city".¹ Most probably the present drawing had been executed on that day. It relates to a small but very prominent painting also from 1836 depicting a *View from the Battery of Trekroner with Copenhagen in the Distance* [fig. 1].²

Trekroner is a fortress on a small island at the entrance to Copenhagen Harbour. When Eckersberg did the painting he was standing in a different place on Trekroner than when he did the present drawing. Consequently the foreground is different, but the view of Copenhagen is almost identical.



Fig. 1: *View from the Battery of Trekroner with Copenhagen in the Distance*, 1836, oil on canvas, 21,5 x 30,5 cm. Den Hirschsprungske Samling, Copenhagen



¹ *C. W. Eckersbergs dagbøger 1810-1837*, vol. 1, Copenhagen 2009, p. 703.

² Den Hirschsprungske Samling, Copenhagen. Peter Michael Hornung and Kasper Monrad, *C. W. Eckersberg – dansk malerkunsts fader*, Copenhagen 2005, p. 247, repr.