

COLNAGHI

Est. 1760



Maria Lushington
(British, c. 1777 - 1862)

*Naples, a view up to
Castel Sant'Elmo*

oil on paper, laid on panel

28 x 23 cm.;

11 1/8 x 9 1/8 in.

Provenance

Private collection, UK.

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LONDON

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Likely painted in situ between c. 1777 - 1862 by Maria Lushington, eldest daughter to British Consul General in Naples, Sir Henry Lushington (served from 1815 - 1832), this intricate oil on paper, laid on panel, quite beautifully illustrates an afternoon snapshot of one of the lineal backstreets of the urban neighbourhood of Petraio. Rendered in warm autumnal tones, and bathed in a soft, yet defined light that casts half of the scene into shadow and creates a tonal richness, Lushington succeeds in capturing the sheer charm and allure of the city.

Viewed from a slight *disottoinsu* position, the scene is framed by high building facades, replete with weeds growing between masonry and peeling plaster, that balance the composition and lead the viewer's eye towards the Castel Sant'Elmo. The medieval fortress is located on Vomero Hill, visible here in the distance, and sits directly adjacent to the Certoso di San Martino, a former Carthusian monastery. Due to its small-scale format, Lushington's thoughtful attention to detail and personal familiarity with the city, the artist evokes a tangible intimacy with the back streets of Naples.