

Enchanted Castle by Claude Lorraine

Acquisition of painting, The Enchanted Castle, by Claude Lorraine. The story of Psyche as related in 'The Golden Ass' (IV-VI) by Apuleius tells how Cupid falls in love with Psyche but conceals his identity from her, visiting her only at night. Fearing he is an evil magician, she looks at him, although forbidden to do so. Cupid then abandons her. The moment shown by Claude, however, may be before Psyche has encountered Cupid, when, following her salvation from danger by the West Wind, she was 'qualifying the troubles and thoughts of her restless mind'. Alternatively, it may be after she has been left by her two sisters who attempted to persuade Psyche to murder her beloved. The picture was painted in 1664 for the Roman aristocrat, Lorenzo Onofrio Colonna. It influenced John Keats's 'Ode to a Nightingale' (1819). Oil on canvas 87.1 x 151.3 cm. Had been on loan to the National gallery since 1874. Acquired by Private Treaty Sale.

Image



Landscape with Psyche outside the Palace of Cupid ('The Enchanted Castle') by Claude

Nation/region

London

Grant awarded

£500,000

Award date

21/05/1981

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