

Stern Pissarro Gallery

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CAMILLE PISSARRO
(1830 - 1903)

St. Thomas Harbour

Pencil on paper

20.8 x 28.6 cm (8 1/4 x 11 1/4 inches)

Stamped lower left and inscribed and dated lower right

Executed in October 1852

Provenance

The artist's estate

Lucilla Lazzari Hatch Collection, Caracas, 1997

Private collection, thence by descent

Sotheby's, New York, 2008

Private collection, acquired from the above

Literature

L. Calzadilla & G. Carnevali, *Pissarro in Venezuela, Works in Venezuelan Collections of Camille Pissarro's Venezuelan Oeuvre (1852-1854)*, London, 1997, no. 135 (illustrated p. 146)

This work is accompanied by a letter confirming the authenticity of the work by Dr. Joachim Pissarro and will be included in the forthcoming Catalogue Raisonné of Drawings by Camille Pissarro.

Pissarro was born on the Caribbean Island of St. Thomas in 1830 and spent his childhood on the island until leaving to be educated in France from 1842-1847. Pissarro returned to St Thomas in 1847 and remained on the island until November of 1852, when he left for a trip to Venezuela with his friend the Danish painter Fritz Melbye. In 1854, Pissarro returned to St Thomas and remained there until he departed the Caribbean for good in 1855 to study art in Paris. The inscription 'St. Thomas / October 52' at the lower right corner of St. Thomas Harbor reveals that Pissarro executed this drawing in 1852 while in St Thomas a month prior to setting sail for Venezuela.

St. Thomas Harbour shares stylistic similarities with another Pissarro drawing of Saint Thomas titled, View of Saint Thomas, and illustrated as no. 27 on p. 50 in the book Camille Pissarro in Venezuela by John Rewald. Both drawings are executed in pencil and depict the lush mountains in the background with houses and buildings at the foot of the mountains. Another drawing Pissarro executed in St Thomas titled Long Bay, St. Thomas, 1852 in the Olana Collection in Hudson, New York, shares similar size as the drawing in question. Stylistically, the handling of the foliage and landscape indicate that the drawing belongs to the earliest group of drawings by Pissarro. The minute scale of hatching used for the foliage in St. Thomas Harbor is characteristic of the landscape drawings Pissarro executed in St Thomas before departing for Venezuela in November of 1852.

This original artwork by [Camille Pissarro](#) is available for immediate purchase.