



Bellotto and Canaletto

Wonder and Light

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This book reveals the extraordinary artistic relationship between Canaletto (Venice 1697-1768) and Bernardo Bellotto (Venice 1722-Warsaw 1780): from the speed with which the exceptional young nephew learned from the teachings of his uncle – leading him to become his alter ego in works for English collectors – to the end of their direct relationship, with Canaletto based in London and Bellotto in European capitals such as Dresden and Warsaw. Then this book highlights the interests developed by Bellotto on his travels: his rigorous perspectives and precise rendering of architecture, but also of landscapes and portraiture, modern themes that differentiate him significantly from his uncle, who clung to the more splendid and idealised eighteenth century. The recent rediscovery of the inventory of goods from Bellotto's house in Dresden – included here – finally offers a key to understanding the culture and personality of an artist who was one of the eighteenth century's most restless and free.