

Title: A Rustic Scene

Artist/maker: Samuel Palmer (1805 - 1881)

Date: 1825

Material and technique: pen and dark brown ink with brush in sepia mixed with gum arabic; varnished

Dimensions: sheet 17.9 x 23.5 cm (height x width)

Purchased: 1941

Accession no: WA1941.102

[http://collections.ashmolean.org/collection/search/per\\_page/100/offset/0/sort\\_by/date/object/47433](http://collections.ashmolean.org/collection/search/per_page/100/offset/0/sort_by/date/object/47433)

Ann Bermingham: 'Landscape and Ideology: The English Rustic Tradition, 1740-1860', University of California Press, 1989

mer painted at Shoreham. In an 1825 sketch by Palmer entitled *A Rustic Scene*, a man finished plowing for the day is shown unhitching his ox, preparing to return home (Figure 65). The rural banality of the action, however, is undercut by the fantastic landscape in which it takes place. The landscape is pregnant with meaning, swelling and undulating with growing things: pears dangle from trees and wheat crowds the fields as far as the eye can see. In the idealizing style of the landscape, the regularized, repetitious pattern of forms emphasizes the beauty of their contours as well as their interlocking compositional harmonies. Such nature for Palmer mirrors the bounty of its divine creator. Man's role in it is that of steward, and the landscape is as much his reward as his work. Even