

John Rathbone (1750-1807) and George Morland (1763-1804)
THIRLMERE, WESTMORLAND, c.1791

Oil on canvas 43.8 x 59.5 cm

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This view of Thirlmere is taken from the west side of the lake, looking north to the Skiddaw/Saddleback range of mountains. The site is now under water, since when Thirlmere became a reservoir for Manchester at the end of the 19th century a great dam raised its level by fifty feet and more than doubled its area. The figures of a sportsman with his dog talking to a mother and child are by Morland and directly relate to a painting of 1791.

John Rathbone, a prolific painter of landscapes, was born in Cheshire. The scenery of the Lake District exerted a great hold over him and his best pictures depict the lakes. Little is known of his early career except that he was based at Manchester. He was living at Preston when he exhibited at

Liverpool in 1774. By 1785 he was in London, where he exhibited at the Royal Academy from 1785-1806 and at the Society of Artists in 1790, and where he died. He frequently collaborated with George Morland, and also occasionally with Julius Caesar Ibbetson.