

## Oriel Gelf **Glynn Vivian** Art Gallery

Collections 1800 – 1900

### Orléans Cathedral - J. M. W. Turner

Watercolour

21.7 cm x 31.8 cm



A man waters his horses, children play on an islet and five women busy themselves with laundry, in the shadow of a ruined bridge once supported on Gothic arches.

So wholly absorbing is the activity in the foreground of this painting by J.M.W. Turner (1775-1851) that one is in danger of overlooking the actual subject of the work, Orléans Cathedral (Cathedral of Sainte-Croix), positioned in the misty middle distance.

Probably the greatest of Romantic landscape artists, Turner travelled widely. His visits to Europe between 1817-1840 centred on rivers - he captured what stood on their banks and what moved on their surface. This visit to the Loire Valley took place in August/September 1826.

His technique on these trips has been recorded as involving numerous sketches made on the spot which would then be worked up into paintings on his return to Britain. Turner's Loire, Tours, Orléans & Paris Sketchbook is housed in Tate Britain.