42   **GUSTAVUS FERDINAND VON TEMPSKY**
1828 - 1868
View of the Bendigo Goldfields (1856)
Pencil on paper 21 x 32
15,000 - 20,000

Provenance:
Collection of the artist's family - by decent

View of the Bendigo Goldfields (1856) is an extremely rare and historically significant image produced by von Tempsky during his three years in Australia.

'Von Tempsky spent most of his time in Bendigo living at Big Hill looking south down the Melbourne-Bendigo road in the direction of Castlemaine. Apart from a widening of the road on the hill itself, the view is almost unchanged today.

The sketch is historically very interesting. The settlement at the foot of the hill is temporary 'tent-town' that existed there during construction of the Big Hill tunnel which takes the railway line through the Big Hill Ranges into the Bendigo Valley. this means that the sketch must have been made c.1856 - 61. Work on the tunnel finished on 19 June 1861. It was put through roughly about the site of the buildings on the extreme left of the picture. It was one of the big engineering feats of the day involving the removal of some 35,000 cubic yards of rock and rubble and around 3.5 million bricks were used to face it. These were handmade on the site by the old method of baking in an open trench in which fires have been lit. And believe is that trench that we see following the contour of the hill on the left. Obviously, it would have to have been out of the way of the workmen and their drays, so the slope above would be a suitable site. The lines of tree in the centre foreground represent the line of the Buckeye Creek and the Bullock Creek. Just to the left of these hidden by a dip of the hill is Ravenswood homestead, for the area shown is the old Ravenswood run - the district is still so called - and the cradle of settlement in this part of Victoria - this may have been partly why Von Tempsky chose to depict it. It also happens to be a very fine view.' (Letter from Frank Crusack, Bendigo, to Rose Young, Waikato Art Museum, Hamilton, 26 May 1977.