Study of the top of a Blenheim Orange apple

John Ruskin

Sold

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REF: 3070

Description

John Ruskin (1819-1900)
Study of the top of a Blenheim Orange apple

Watercolour
10.1 by 13.9 cm, 4 by 5 ½ in.

These four studies are part of a group of watercolour studies of apples drawn by Ruskin in the 1870s. Cook and Wedderburn used a study of a Blenheim orange apple as the frontispiece to the Library edition of The Elements of Drawing (E.T. Cook and Alexander Wedderburn ed., The Works of John Ruskin, London, 1904, Vol. XV, 'The Elements of Drawing', illus. as frontispiece). They date it to 1873

The Blenheim Orange was a cultivar found growing against a boundary wall of Blenheim Park, in Old Woodstock, Oxfordshire, by a Mr Kempster, in about 1740. It is regarded as a dual-purpose apple, so can be used for both cooking (if picked in late September) and eating (if picked from October onwards).

Another study of the same apple is in a private collection (see Christopher Newall, John Ruskin - Artist and Observer, 2014, no.124, ill.)

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