

Study of the top of a Blenheim Orange apple

John Ruskin

Sold



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.)