Public access description

This landscape on Rhodes would have been visited by Dadd when on a sightseeing and sketching trip with his patron, Sir Thomas Philips. Shortly afterwards, the two travelled to Egypt, where Dadd is said to have contracted the severe sunstroke which precipitated his rapid fall into insanity. During his later years in the criminal lunatic asylum, he honed to an extreme degree the technique of painting seen here, where minute dabs of paint are hatched or stippled to describe gradated colour and tone. Such an approach here captures this landscape as through a haze of intensified perception, generating a sense of vivid light and almost uncomfortable exposure.

Descriptive line

Watercolour, 'View of the island of Rhodes' by Richard Dadd, ca.1842-43

Physical description

View of the island of Rhodes. Inscribed with title on the back, in the artist's hand.

Dimensions

Height: 245 mm, Width: 372 mm

Museum number

27-1878

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O126408/view-of-the-island-of-watercolour-dadd-richard/