Print - The Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting

Object: Print
Place of origin: China (made)
Date: 1701 (made)
Artist/Maker: Wang Gai (painter (artist))
Materials and Techniques: Colour print from woodblocks
Credit Line: Alexander Gift
Museum number: E.4779-1916
Gallery location: In Storage

Public access description
At the beginning of the 17th century Chinese printers mastered the technique of producing colour prints from a number of separate wooden blocks, enabling them to imitate closely the effect of painted brushwork. One work, entitled The Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting, can be considered a successful example. The first part was published in Nanjing in 1679, while parts two and three appeared in 1701. The page shown here comes from Part Three, which is mainly a didactic manual of brushwork techniques, and is one of the full-colour illustrations designed by the painter Wang Gai (active about 1679-1705). This work may have been intended as model for emulation or as a work of art in itself.

Descriptive line
Colour print from woodblocks, China, designed by Wang Gai, Qing dynasty, 1701

Physical description
This print is one of a series contained in the great work entitled the Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting. The prints contained in the publication are examples of the technique of printing from woodblocks.

Dimensions
Height: 30.5 cm, Width: 37.3 cm

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URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O16105/the-mustard-seed-garden-manual-print-wang-gai/