Public access description

The quotation is from Alexander Pope's Moral Essays, published in the period 1731-1735:

'Tis education forms the common mind,
Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined.

Mulready emphasises the nurturing role of a mother in a composition that echoes the traditional theme of the Madonna and Child.

Descriptive line

Oil painting entitled 'The Lesson, or "Just as the twig is bent, the tree's inclined"' by William Mulready. Great Britain, ca. 1850s.

Physical description

Oil on panel depicting a lesson, or a mother teaching her son

Dimensions

Height: 44.1 cm estimate, Width: 34 cm estimate

Museum number

FA.236[O]

Object history note

Given by John Sheepshanks, 1861

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O80551/the-lesson-or-just-as-oil-painting-mulready-william-ra/