Photograph
Place of origin: India (southern, made)
Date: mid 19th century (made)
Artist/Maker: Unknown
Materials and Techniques: Black and white photograph
Credit Line: Margrave Bequest
Museum number: 59360
Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level F, case X, shelf 1

Descriptive line
Photograph of a Toda man by unknown photographer from Madras School of Industrial Arts, Southern India, 19th century.

Physical description
Portrait of a Toda man wearing traditional clothing with his right hand raised to his chest, standing against a plain white wall. This hill tribe are widely recognised in India for their traditional marriage rituals associated with dairy farming in the Nilgiri Hills.

Dimensions
Height: 20.2 cm, Width: 14.8 cm

Museum number
59360

Object history note
This portrait is one in a series of twenty one images by an unidentified photographer from the Madras School of Industrial Arts. It was probably taken in response to official requests for portraits of South Asian ethnic types, but unlike much of the anthropometric imagery of the period, the photographer appears to have adopted a more sensitive approach to the sitters.

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O81441/photograph-unknown/