Photograph - Jane Morris in the garden of Tudor House

Object: Photograph

Place of origin: Chelsea (photographed)

Date: 08/07/1865 (made)

Artist/Maker: Parsons, John R. (photographer)
Rossetti, Dante Gabriel, born 1828 - died 1882 (artist)

Materials and Techniques: Albumen print from wet collodion-on-glass negative

Museum number: 1740-1939

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level F, case X, shelf 610, box A

Public access description

Jane Burden, the daughter of an Oxford ostler, married William Morris in 1859. Her large features did not fit the mid-Victorian ideal of beauty, but her long neck, full lips and rippling hair became synonymous with a type of beauty created by Rossetti and his circle. This photograph shows her in the artistic dress that she adopted after her marriage. It is one of a number for which she modelled in poses set by Rossetti in his garden in Chelsea. At the time they were beginning a romantic liaison, which was to last until 1875. The photograph formed the basis of the composition Pandora, which was executed in chalks in 1869. This is now in the Faringdon Collection at Buscot Park in Berkshire.

Descriptive line

Photograph of Jane Morris in the garden of Tudor House by John Parsons, posed by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, 08/07/1865.

Physical description

Photograph

Dimensions

Height: 198 mm photograph, Width: 147 mm photograph, Height: 335 mm album closed, Width: 260 mm album closed, Depth: 55 mm album closed

Museum number

1740-1939

Object history note

Dr Robert Steele presented to the V&A (in 1939) the album bound in Morris fabric and containing the original 19th century albumen prints, then (in 1942) the modern prints made from the original negatives, which then belonged to the granddaughter of William Michael Rossetti.

URL

http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O88803/jane-morris-in-the-garden-photograph-parsons-john-r/