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Princess Helena, Princess Louise and Prince Arthur, 1853

RCIN 423065

Watercolour on ivory with arched painted surface laid on board; painted surface 175 x 230 mm; there are a series of test strokes around the unpainted edge of the miniature hidden by the frame rebate together with casual pencil inscriptions by the artist reading *26th Apr / Sat 1/2 past 11 / Monday 18th after 10 00 - / Examine the Eye / The Ear (!) / Each ascending day the same hour / Speak to Mr. Gra[?] obscured]. (reproduced at 90% of actual size) (before treatment)*

Three-quarter-length group; standing together in a garden, Princess Helena in the centre, wearing an amber-coloured pinafore over a white shift and holding a lily; Princess Louise on the left wearing a classical robe and plucking a pink rose, a butterfly hovering above her head; Prince Arthur on the right, wearing a white dress with brown mantle and addressing Princess Helena.

Rectangular Hatfield frame, the arched slip with scrolling acanthus leaf motifs in the spandrels, engraved on the reverse: THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES / THE PRINCESSES HELENA & LOUISE & PRINCE ARTHUR / THE THIRD AND FOURTH DAUGHTERS & THE THIRD SON OF H.M. QUEEN VICTORIA. & H.R.H.