The Physionotrace

The Physionotrace derives its name from “physiognomy,” which is the art of judging moral character and intelligence from facial features. With its various selections of noses and costumes that can be changed instantly, this humorous parlor game pokes fun at and undermines the seeming logic of this theory.

The Physionotrace
English, early 1800s
Watercolored lithographs on cardboard
5 x 4 in.
The Getty Research Institute, Werner Nekes Collection
93.R.118