

Four seasons (Vietnamese:Tứ quý)

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 59.86.1 

Type: woodblock print; hanging scroll

Date of production: 1950s

Place of production: Hanoi, Hàng Trống, Vietnam, Southeast Asia

Materials/Technique: paper, woodblock printing, hand coloured, mounted as hanging scroll

Dimensions: height: 130. 5 cm
depth: 42. 6 cm

Tứ bình is a 16th-century Vietnamese folk painting form that arranges four images with a common theme into a single series. Made in the Hàng Trống workshop in Hanoi, these pictures were usually made for the Tết, or Vietnamese New Year, similar to Đông Hồ prints, and were very popular among the people. The themes of the quartets all revolve around different states of things and change, such as the ages, four female musicians with different instruments, four important careers of the human or the four seasons shown here.

The pieces of the four seasons series have the following titles: pine, chrysanthemum, bamboo, and the mai or peach blossom (lat. *Ochna integerrima*), which is closely related to the New Year.

