

Four female musician (Vietnamese: Tố nữ)

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: 59.94.1 

Type: woodblock print; hanging scroll

Date of production: 1950s

Place of production: Vietnam, Southeast Asia

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

Dimensions: height: 127 cm
width: 42. 7 cm

A singer in an orange and red dress, holding a fan in his right hand, in front of a vase on a high table. Inside the vase is a pink peony.

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, like Đông Hồ prints, and were very popular with the public. The themes of the quartets all revolve around different states of things and change, such as the four seasons, the ages, four female musicians with different instruments or the four occupations.

