


Traditional New Year painting - Coconut picking (Vietnamese: Hứng dừa/ Hái dừa)

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.:	2018.1.7 
Type:	woodblock print
Date of production:	1960s
Place of production:	Vietnam, Southeast Asia
Materials/Techniques:	paper, coloured woodblock print
Dimensions:	height: 34.3 cm width: 25 cm

In this picture taken at the Đông Hồ workshop in Vietnam, a young man is handing down nuts picked from a coconut tree, which the girl under the tree is gathering into her skirt. The upturned skirt allows you to see the girl's bare legs, which are usually covered by traditional trousers or a long skirt.

Despite the strict Confucian morals, young people were allowed to live together out of wedlock during many festivals in the countryside, and children born of such unions were welcomed by families. The image is a reference to this tradition and, because of its erotic content, was believed to bring fertility, good harvests and abundance, and thus may have been included in New Year's images.

