

Adam Calvert Bentley and Ardgowan Antiques

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Set of Four George III Aquatints from the Boydell Shakespeare Plays

showing four scenes from different plays; in contemporary gilt-wood frames

SKU: B4655

Height: 40.5 cm (16 inches) framed

Width: 47 cm (18.5 inches) framed

Year: English. late 18th century



The *Boydell Shakespeare Gallery* was a collection of paintings of scenes from Shakespeare commissioned by the printer and engraver John Boydell - it had three parts - an illustrated edition of the plays, a folio of prints from the plays, and a public gallery where the original paintings could be viewed. The idea was conceived at a dinner in November 1786, and the public gallery opened in 1788; the gallery was closed and the paintings dispersed in 1805