

SA1230898

'The Taming of the Shrew', circa
1800, oil on canvas

Price

GBP 1,700

| USD \$2,318 | EUR 1,984

Item Reference: SA1230898

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 67 cm (26.4")

Width = 81 cm (31.9")

Depth = 8 cm (3.1")

Description

The scene is from 'The Taming of the Shrew' by William Shakespeare Act II scene II - 'Baptista's house. Petruchio, Katherine, Bianca, &c.' after Francis Wheatley (1747-1801) Artists and patrons in the 18th century responded to and encouraged the assertion of Shakespeare as Britain's foremost national playwright. Through the remarkable efforts of David Garrick, the actor and Drury Lane theater manager, the plays flourished on the stage, while the promotion of the playwright as the "immortal bard" was seized as an opportunity to foster a British school of history painting. Combining commerce and connoisseurship, entrepreneurial publishers like John Boydell and James Woodmason commissioned works from contemporary artists and created what amounted to a new genre: the Shakespearean conversation piece. Scenes often depicted famous actors and actresses in favored roles, such as Benjamin van der Gucht's portrait of actor Henry Woodward in the role of Petruchio in David Garrick's adaptation of 'The Taming of the Shrew', and James Northcote's portrait of the child actor William Henry West Betty in the role of 'Hamlet'. Such was the popularity of these paintings and others like th...

Seller Details

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