Architectural Fantasy School of Giuseppe Galli Bibiena, 1696-1757 Brown ink and wash, about 1740



The Galli Bibiena family were Italian architects and scenic artists. They worked throughout Europe during the late 17th and 18th centuries creating elaborate sets for theatres and events hosted by wealthy patrons.

Giuseppe was the grandson of Giovanni Maria Galli, who was born in Bibiena near Florence and laid the foundations of the family business.

Because their work was mostly created as temporary decoration, little of it has survived. This complex and beautifully detailed drawing offers a rare glimpse into the splendour and richness of the imaginary worlds created by this family of artists and decorators.

Given by Miss Myers in 1942