

**Design for the Cupola of St Paul's Cathedral
&
Four Designs Illustrating
the Life of St Paul
By Sir James Thornhill, 1676-1734
Ink and wash, before 1715**



Thornhill worked in the Italian Baroque tradition, a highly ornate style rooted in Catholic church architecture. Full of grandeur and dramatic realism, it was designed to inspire awe and emotion.

In 1715 Thornhill was awarded the commission to paint the life of the apostle Paul at St Paul's Cathedral in London. These designs appear to be early explorations, the beginnings of what eventually became eight painted murals on the interior of the cathedral's dome.

Purchased in 1891