

Bida, Alexandre, artist. Midsummer night's dream, IV, 1, Titania adorns Bottom with Flowers. Nineteenth century. Folger ART Box B584 no.4 (size S)

This watercolor by Alexandre Bida shows a scene from A *Midsummer Night's Dream* that, although popular with artists, does not explicitly appear in the text. Titania promises that Bottom will sleep "on pressèd flowers" (3.1.161), but the inspiration for this image of Bottom with a garland likely comes from the description of Titania's behavior towards the Indian Boy in act 2: "But she perforce withholds the lovèd boy, Crowns him with flowers and makes him all her joy" (2.1.26-27).