



Fuseli, Henry, artist. [Figure studies]. ca. 1805? Folger ART Box F993 no.10

In addition to many of Henry Fuseli's finished paintings of Shakespeare subjects, the Folger Shakespeare Library also owns a variety of Fuseli's sketches and drawings. With the drooping, bearded figure at the right cowering before a forceful horsed figure and a lounging woman, this figure study has previously been identified as "King Lear humbling himself before Cornwall and Regan," based on the lines from act 2, scene 4: "On my knees I beg / That you'll vouchsafe me raiment, bed, and food." Since the figure is not kneeling, however, Folger cataloguers have noted that the sheet contains three separate sketches, and that the old man may be the Hermit in Christoph Martin Wieland's epic poem *Oberon*.

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