During the 1660s, the Antwerp artist Jan van Kessel the Elder (1626–1679) produced two series of *The four parts of the world* that feature a novel pictorial type. The first, now in the Museo del Prado in Madrid, remains only partially intact (fig. 1); however, a written description reveals that it was originally identical in format to a second series in the Alte Pinakothek in Munich (figs. 2–5).¹ Each of the four composite pictures in this series contains 16 discrete, miniature oil paintings on copper plates that are

¹ Jan van Kessel I, *The four parts of the world*, 1660, oil on copper, 175 x 123 cm, 17 x 23 cm (individual plates), Madrid, Museo del Prado (photo: Museo del Prado).