

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ALEFOUNDER, John

London 1757 – Calcutta 1794

Alefounder entered the Royal Academy schools in 1776 as an architecture student. He exhibited miniatures at the Royal Academy from 1777 to 1793; he also worked in oil and pastel, making portraits, theatrical scenes and other pieces. He was associated with Kauffmann and Bartolozzi, who engraved his work. Alefounder is recorded as living in Ave Maria Lane, London (1777, with his father); at Mrs Angiers', Wardour Street (1779); at Mr Booth's, 81 Strand (1780) and at Mr Ireland's, Bow Street (1781). Around 1784 he married a Maria Jane Curd or Evans, and moved to 25 Bow Street. In 1785 he travelled to India (his wife remained in London) where, after several attempts, he committed suicide. It has been suggested that this was a response to the unexpectedly difficult economic conditions (some eight British portrait painters in Calcutta were far more than the tiny market could support), but Humphry's description of him as "melancholy mad" offers a simpler explanation.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Brieger 1921; Clive Dewey, *Modern Asian studies*, XVI, 1982, p. 687; Foskett 1987; Oxford DNB; Saur; Sée 1911; Waterhouse 1981; Williamson 1918

Pastels

Poetry, pstl, 56x43 ov. (Sackville Gallery 1911).
Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 1. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr.
p. 331 Φ



Music, pstl, 56x43 ov. (Sackville Gallery 1911).
Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 2
A lady, chalks, Royal Academy 1779, no. 1