

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

ARTAUD, William

London 24.III.1763–22.II.1823

Artaud was the son of Stephen Artaud, a Huguenot jeweller, and Elizabeth Seward, who had married in St Martin-in-the-Fields in 1755. He won prizes at the Society of Arts from as early as 1775. He was admitted to the Royal Academy Schools on 31.XII.1778 (aged “15 24th last March”), and took silver and gold medals in 1783 and 1786 respectively. He travelled to Rome in 1795 with funds from the Royal Academy, attracting the patronage of William Henry Lambton, an MP and freemason, leaving Italy in 1798 and then spending a year in Dresden before returning to London in late 1799. He is best known as a painter of religious and history subjects as well as of some portraits.

Artaud left a collection of papers relating to his travels (now in the John Rylands Library) which passed to Kenneth Seaward Tayler, a great-great-grandson of the artist's sister Anna Susannah (1756–1833), who married a hatter, Wager Tayler (1752–1837), at St-Martin-in-the-Fields in 1782. Tayler and his widow, née Elizabeth M. Muirhead, donated a large number of his drawings to eight English museums including a few sheets with touches of pastel.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Foskett 1987; Ingamells 1997; Saur; A. C. Sewter, “The life, work and letters of William Artaud 1763–1823”, MA thesis, University of Manchester, 1951 [unpublished]; Kim Sloan, “William Artaud: history painter and ‘violent democrat’”, *Burlington magazine*, CXXXVII, .II.1995, pp. 76–85; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

J.1126.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, pstl, 36.8x29.2 ov., c.1822 (London, NPG 4862) ◊



Photo courtesy National Portrait Gallery, London

J.1126.104 Man, head and shoulders to front, cr. clr/grey ppr, 46.5x31 (British Museum, inv. 1973,1208.73. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1973) ◊



J.1126.106 Young man, pstl (Nottingham Castle, inv. NCM 1972-51. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1972)

J.1126.107 Head of a man, study for a head of Christ, pstl (Nottingham Castle, inv. NCM 1972-53. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1972)

J.1126.108 Elderly gentleman looking right, pstl (Nottingham Castle, inv. NCM 1972-54. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1972)

J.1126.109 Old lady wearing a bonnet, pstl (Nottingham Castle, inv. NCM 1972-55. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1972)

J.1126.11 Head of a child, looking right, pstl/ppr br. (Nottingham Castle, inv. NCM 1972-59. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1972)

J.1126.111 Studies of an arm and hand grasping a chair and of a hand with index finger outstretched, cr. clr/pink prepared ppr, 34x26.5 (British Museum, inv. 1973,1208.70. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1973) ◊



J.1126.113 Study of a woman's hand and arm holding a cup, cr. clr/pink prepared ppr, 35.5x26.8 (British Museum, inv. 1973,1208.77. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1973). Lit.: Anne Carol Darlington, “The Royal Academy of Arts and its anatomical teachings”, Ph.D. thesis, 1990, p. 259 n.r., “a fine drawing executed in pastels, well controlled use of colour with nice detail of hand and fingers.” ◊



J.1126.115 Study of a hand and forearm, pstl (Nottingham Castle, inv. NCM 1972-46. Don Mrs Elizabeth M. Tayler 1972) ◊

