

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **BALECHOU, Jean-Joseph**

Arles 11.VII.1715 – Avignon 8.VIII.1764

After initially studying painting in Avignon alongside Joseph Vernet (he is also claimed as a pupil of Vialy), Balechou (or Baléchou) turned to engraving, which he learned from the Avignon engraver Michel. In 1734 he joined Lépicié in Paris, and subsequently devoted himself to reproductive engraving after portrait painters such as Rigaud and genre painters such as Jaurat. He was *agrégé* in 1749 with his celebrated plate of August III., but a dispute over secretly retained copies damaged his standing, and he was never *reçu*. He returned to Avignon in 1753. In 1763 the Dutch scholar and collector Joan Gideon Loten was in Avignon, where, on 8.IX.1763, he called on “Mr Balechow” who was not at home. However his wife showed Loten “an apartment where I saw several of his prints...pleasantly done in pastel & opposite to it the same print.”

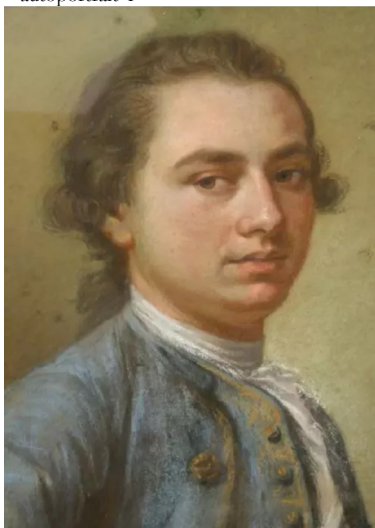
Nothing more is known of his work as a pastellist apart from the single work of his youth indicated by Belleudy. There seems no strong reason to question the inscription Belleudy reports, although the Institut Calvet website omits any mention of this and reproduces the pastel as an anonymous portrait of Balechou.

### **Bibliography**

Belleudy 1908; Belleudy 1913; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Grove; Parrocel 1890; Raat 2010, p. 292; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur

### **Pastels**

J.1222.101 AUTO PORTRAIT, pstl, 28x23 ov., inscr. *verso* “Agé de 18 ans/peint par M. Balecou d’Arles” (Avignon, musée Calvet, inv. 2020.0.37. Acqu. l’Institut Calvet 1845). Lit.: Belleudy 1908, repr. frontispiece in ov., as *autoportrait* Φ



*Photo courtesy musée Calvet, Avignon. Photo André Guerrand*