

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CARPENTIER, Michel-Silvestre

Paris c.1715 – p.1791

Carpentier's biography remains somewhat sketchy, with an impossible birth date suggested in all sources until here in 2020. A member of the Académie de Saint-Luc, he was living in Paris, rue du Dauphine, when his brother-in-law, a painter called Amable Ducôté, died in 1771 (Guiffrey). Carpentier had married Jeanne Ducôté on 2.X.1742 at Saint-Roch (Fonds Andriveau); she died on 11.X.1794 aged 77, probably as a widow, leaving a son, Jacques-Marie Carpentier, limonadier, Paris – tables de successions). He was accordingly likely to have been born c.1715.

In 1776, he moved to Poitiers, where his arrival was published in the *Affiches du Poitou* (22.VIII. and 5.IX.1776). He was *reçu* artiste-étranger-correspondant at the École royale académique de peinture in Poitiers that year, and became a professeur by 1777. A competent three-quarters length oil of a Mlle Charrault (Poitiers, mBA, inv. 877.2.2; she was the daughter of a local procureur au présidial) is signed and dated "Carpentier de l'Académie de Poitiers en may 1777", but all his pastels are lost. He exhibited numerous portraits at the Salons there, most of which (according to the livret) were decorated with varied accessories indicating the profession or taste of his subjects. A notice appeared in the *Affiches d'Angers*, 16.VII.1791:

Le sieur Carpentier, peintre et professeur de l'Académie royale de Poitiers, sachant peindre l'histoire, le tableau de cabinet dans le goût flamand, le portrait en tous les genres, prévient qu'il donne des leçons de dessin et de peinture. Il demeure faubourg Saint-Michel.

(An oil painting, sold Nîmes, Champion Kusel, 4.IV.1998 as by Carpentier but probably from the Boucher workshop, was later at New York, Sotheby's, 25.I.2001, Lot 207, reproduced in Bertrand & Bremer-David 2022, fig. 11 as a pastel.)

Bibliography

Bénézit; Guiffrey 1885, p. 3; Sanchez 2004; Saur

Pastels

J.2012.101 Le sieur CARRIERE, pstl, Salon de Poitiers 1776

J.2012.102 M. MAURY, chanoine de Notre-Dame la Grande, pstl, Salon de Poitiers 1777, no. 38

J.2012.103 Le sieur VACHÉ, pstl, Salon de Poitiers 1776

J.2012.104 Tête de femme, pstl, Salon de Poitiers 1776