

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

COMERFORD, John

Kilkenny 1773 – Dublin 1832

Irish portraitist in oils and miniature, said also to have used pastel. He was self-taught, copying the pictures in Kilkenny Castle. He is first mentioned in Dublin in the *Leinster journal* for 29.VI.1797, but it was not until 1800 that he received critical attention. Around 1810 he abandoned oil painting for miniatures and small portraits in chalk or pencil. A miniature after a pastel by Skirving is not now believed to be by him.

Monographic exhibitions

Comerford 1999: *John Comerford and the portrait miniature in Ireland c.1620–1850*, Kilkenny, 1999. Cat. Paul Caffrey

Bibliography

Bénézit; Dublin 1969; Figgis & Rooney 2001; McGuire 1939, p. 15; Saur; Strickland 1913; Wright 2006