

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DUMONT, François

Lunéville 1751 – Paris 1831

Best known as a miniaturist, he also made pastels and oil paintings early in his career. The son of the cocher des équipages du roi de Pologne, from 1762 to 1768 he was apprenticed to Augustin's teacher Jean Girardet, peintre ordinaire to Stanislaw Leszczyński. He moved to Paris in 1768. By 1773 he was undertaking portraits of the royal circle. In 1786 he travelled to Rome. Dumont married Vestier's daughter Marie-Nicole in 1789.

He was *agréé* and *reçu* by the Académie royale in 1788 with two pastel heads (as required by the latest regulation, according to Pierre's letter to d'Angiviller, 27.IV.1788; "ce nouveau candidat dut très festé"), probably those exhibited the following year, and including that of his brother Tony. His pastel of M. Mentelle, three years later, was attacked by the critic (*La Béquille*), who observed drily that the artist could easily correct his mistake by sticking a sheet of paper over the portrait. He seems to have heeded this advice, as no further pastels are recorded. He remains the outstanding miniaturist of his generation.

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Hofstetter 2008; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur; Voireaux 1998

Salon critiques

Anon., *La Béquille de Voltaire au Salon...*, Paris, [1791]:

M. Dumont [portrait de Mentelle], il ne vous en coûtera pas beaucoup pour expier votre croûte; comme ce n'est qu'un pastel, il s'agira simplement de coller un autre papier dessus.

Pastels

Nicolas-Antoine, dit Tony DUMONT (1772–1810), peintre, pstl, 1788, morceau de réception. Lit.: Passez 1989, p. 46 repr. **Φ**



M. MENTELLE, pstl, Salon de 1791, no. 116

Deux portraits, pstl, de même grandeur, Salon de 1789, no. 133