

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

EISEN, Charles-Dominique-Joseph

Valenciennes 1720 – Brussels 1778

Several members of this family share the name Charles and were attached to the Académie de Saint-Luc. Charles-Dominique-Joseph was the son of the painter François Eisen. He moved to Paris around 1740 and worked in Lebas's studio, mainly as a draughtsman, producing book illustrations. His admission to the Académie de Saint-Luc was delayed for two years in a dispute over whether his talent entitled him to a reduced fee; he won a legal case and was admitted without fee in 1750. He was supported by Mme de Pompadour, to whom he gave drawing lessons. In 1774, he was appointed assistant rector of the Academy; Mme Filleul (*q.v.*) presented a portrait in oil of him as her reception piece in the Salon de l'Académie de Saint-Luc of that year. He married an Anne Aubert in 1745, with Jean Chevalier (*q.v.*) as witness. She was 10 years older than him, and it is thought that his departure to Brussels shortly before his death in reduced circumstances may have been due to an affair a younger woman.

He left a number of oil studies of vieillards in the same manner as the Valenciennes pastel.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Goncourt 1880, II, pp. 139–80, Grove; Guiffrey 1915, pp. 283–87; Jal; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Claire Lemoine-Isabeau, "Les peintures de Charles Eisen", *Gazette des beaux-arts*, .x.1961, p. 223–36; Sanchez 2004; Saur

Pastels

Vieillard de profil, à g., pstl/ppr, 55.4x44, sd
"Eisen 1774" (Valenciennes, mBA,
D.46.2.460. Don Desquenue 1935) **Φ**



Photo courtesy musée des Beaux-Arts de Valenciennes, © Régis Decottignies