EISEN, Charles-Dominique-Joseph

Valenciennes 17.VIII.1720 – Bruxelles 4.I.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 with a younger woman.

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

Bibliography

Pastels
12992.156: Vieillard de profil, à g., pstl/ppr, 55.4x44, sd \ “Eisen 1774” (Valenciennes, mBA, inv. D.46.2.460. Don Desquenne 1935) Φσ

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