

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

GIROUST, Jean-Antoine- Théodore

Bussy-Saint-Georges-en-Brie 10.XI.1753 –
Mitry-Mory 10.VII.1817

History painter; *agrégé* 1786; *reçu* 1788. He was supported at the Académie by Vien from 1770. He won the Grand Prix in 1778. He cannot have been the brother of Mme Roslin, née Suzanne Giroust (*q.v.*), as both her parents were dead by 1745. In fact his father was the farmer Antoine Giroust (1719–1806), sgr du Vivier à Mitry, secrétaire du roi du parlement de Metz, and his mother (∞ 1752) Jeanne-Françoise Taveau (1732–1817). He married Françoise-Nicole Dieu.

Giroust seems to have used pastel rarely, only in two periods of his career. In the late 1770s he made some portraits of his own family in oil and chalk, with two of his parents in pastel. During the Terror, Giroust retreated to Serres (Hautes-Alpes), and there he used pastel (no doubt because the medium was portable) for several portraits of members of the religious order there. Although responsible for the remarkable *Leçon de harpe* which includes Mme de Genlis (said to have frequented Le Vivier), there no obvious similarity between his work and the anonymous pastel of the writer at Chantilly, which is by a much less accomplished artist such as Tirman (*v. Éc. fr.*).

Giroust was the subject of a pastel exhibited by Mme Gault de Saint-Germain (*q.v.*).

Bibliography

Gaetgens & Lugand 1988, p. 337; Giuseppe di Paolo 2009; E. S[alles]. petit-neveu du peintre, *Antoine Giroust, peintre d'histoire de l'ancienne Académie*, Pontoise, 1888

Pastels

J.3503.104 Le père CHARLES, dernier supérieur des
Minimes de Serre, pstl

J.3503.105 La sœur du père CHARLES, pstl

La comtesse de GENLIS, née Stéphanie-Félicité Ducrest, pstl (Chantilly, musée Condé, inv. PD 538). Lit.: Giuseppe di Paolo 2009, attr. J.-A.-Th. Giroust [v. Éc. fr.]

J.3503.106 Antoine GIROUST, sgr du Vivier (1719–1806), secrétaire du roi du parlement de Metz; & pendant: J.3503.107 épouse (∞ 1752), née Jeanne-Françoise Taveau (1732–1817), parents de l'artiste, pstl (desc.: Dr T***, petits-fils)

J.3503.108 Le frère MINIME, pstl