

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HEILMANN, Johann Kaspar

Mulhouse 1718 – Paris 27.XI.1760

Also Jean-Gaspard. History, genre and landscape painter and portraitist. His initial training was from a painter called Doggeler or Deggeler in Shaffhausen. He then worked in Basel before moving to Rome, where he was noticed by de Troy and taken up by cardinal de Tencin. Sent to Paris, where he lived in the hôtel de Tencin, he became close to Boucher and Wille and devoted himself to portraiture, a genre which he nevertheless disliked. “Un peintre doit être un homme libre. Le portraitiste est un esclave & je ne veux plus l'être”, he is reputed to have said, before turning to landscapes, volailles, etc., all of which proclaimed his great talents. Apparently “il travaillait aussi en pastel & il savait lui donner de la consistance”. The only other indication that he worked in pastel is from early auction records of landscape drawings “faits au pastel sur papier teint en bleu”.

Bibliography

Bénézit; baron d'O***, lettre, *Journal helvétique*, .XII.1770, p. 311f

Pastels

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J.3836.102 Deux paysages très-pittoresques des environs de Paris, pstl (Wille; Paris, Basan, 6–11.XII.1784, Lot 153, 20 livres)