

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HOWARD, Hugh

Dublin 7.II.1675 – London 17.III.1738

Irish portrait painter and collector. The family emigrated to England in 1688. In 1697 Howard travelled to Rijswijk with the British ambassador to the peace conference, the Earl of Pembroke. He went on to Rome, where he studied under Carlo Maratti (*q.v.*). On his return to London in 1700 he practised portrait painting and attended Kneller's academy which opened in 1711. He abandoned art around 1714, when he married Thomasina Langston (–1728), the wealthy daughter of a general; there were no children. He also acted as an art adviser to the Duke of Devonshire. In 1726 he was appointed paymaster-general of the royal works, a lucrative sinecure. He assembled an important collection including old master drawings by Dürer and Michelangelo. Some of his extensive collection of British drawings descended from his brother Dr Robert Howard (1683–1740), Bishop of Elphin, to the Earls of Wicklow; they were purchased by the British Museum in 1874 from the 5th Earl.

The sole known pastel is a copy of a miniature (not a pastel) by Rosalba Carriera (Sani 2007, no. 16); it was her *morceau de réception* at the Accademia di San Luca in 1705. The pastel was probably taken from the autograph replica now in Windsor (RCIN 420544; Walker 1992, no. 126, where it is described as a self-portrait as Innocence); its early history is not known, and it may possibly have belonged to the Howard himself.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Bénézit; Croft-Murray & Hulton 1960, p. 582; *Dictionary of Irish biography*; Figgis 2014; Oxford DNB; Sloan 2000; Strickland 1913; Waterhouse 1981; Wynne 1969; Wynne 1972

Pastels

J.4068.101 Girl with a dove, pstl a/r Rosalba Carriera, 22.4x17.9 ov. (British Museum 1874.0808.112. The artist; desc.: Charles Francis Arnold Howard, 5th Earl of Wicklow; acqu. 1874). Lit.: Binyon 1898–1907, II, p. 363, no. 1 n.r.; Figgis 2014, as possibly after a pastel by Rosalba Carriera φ

