

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

KAPELLER, Jean-Joseph

Marseille 24.VII.1706–29.XI.1790

M. Kapeller, peintre et géomètre, professeur de dessin, de géométrie, et de mécanique, according to the lists in the Académie de peinture et sculpture de Marseille, of which he was a founder member in 1752 and directeur-recteur from 1771. The *Mercur* reports for the exhibitions of 1756, 1757, 1760, 1761 and 1763 cite his work as a painter of marine, landscape, architecture and flower paintings, as well as drawings in ink and gouache and pastel portraits. His son exhibited shell paintings in 1757, and a daughter, Adélaïde, became an associate in 1772. Kapeller's marine views were influenced by the work of Jean-Baptiste and Pascal de Larose, painters at the arsenal de Toulon, and in turn were taught to Joseph Vernet on his arrival in Marseille in 1755. A remarkable oil portrait of him by Nattier's son, dated 1753, appeared at auction (10–11.XII.1928, Lot 43). Kapeller was also a freemason: he is documented in 1750 as grand-maître of the Chevalier de l'Orient loge.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Léon Lagrange, *Joseph Vernet, sa vie, sa famille, son siècle*, Brussels, 1858, p. 56; Perrier 1897, pp. 260ff; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

[J.425.101](#) Deux petits portraits, pstl, 24.3x13.5, Salon de Marseille 1761