

KRAUS, Franz Anton

Söflingen 19.II.1705 – Einsiedeln 29.VI.1752

The German artist Kraus or Krause was born in poverty, but a wealthy patron took him to Italy, where he spent seven years in Piazzetta's studio in Venice. He was in France (Paris, Dijon, Langres and Lyon) from 1732 to 1743. On 28.IX.1734 "François-Antoine Kraus, peintre de l'Académie royale, âgé d'environ 30 ans, fils de Jean-George Kraus, bourgeois, et du défunte Marie Umhofferin, de la paroisse de Sofflingen" was married, in Marnay (between Besançon and Dijon), to Marguerite Chapuis; several children were born in that area over the following years. Most of the small known output is of religious paintings, but he took up pastel portraiture to earn money. He was in Dijon 1737–40, when the two dated pastels were made. An oil of the lawyer François-Ignace Dunod de Charnage from 1738 is also in Dijon, mBA. A letter of engagement to execute two religious paintings for the church of Sainte-Croix in Lyon, for 1100 livres, was dated 28.IX.1741. He was in Augsburg c.1745 when he decorated the church of ND des Ermites, and took on Melchior Wyrsch as a pupil.

Bibliography

Constans 1969; Descamps & Dezallier d'Argenville 1842, III, pp. 224f; Grove 1996; Füßli 1806; Nagler 1835–52; Pilkington 1770; Elsbet Zumsteg-Brügel, *Franz Anton Kraus, 1705–1752: ein vergessener Maler des Spätbarock als Ulm*, 1983; "Histoire de l'ancienne école de peinture ...de Besançon", *Mémoires de la Société d'Émulation du Doubs*, 1888, III, p. 119; *Lyon-revue*, 1.XI.1885, p. 304

Pastels

J.4356.051 [olim J.9.2407] ?Pierre PERRAULT (1699–1758), pstl, inscr. *verso* (Villefranche-sur-Saône, Guillaumot-Richard, 27.X.2018, Lot 132 repr., anon., inconnu, est. €400–450. Toulouse, Marambat de Lamafosse, 8.VII.2021, Lot 192 repr., inconnu, est. €200–300, €320) [new attr. 2025, ?] φσδν



J.4356.101 Homme en habit violet, jabot blanc, pstl, 46x39, sd *verso* "Kraus fecit, 1737" (Dijon, mBA, inv. 4654. Acqu. 1965). Lit.:

Quarré 1968, p. 467; Constans 1969, fig. 1; Dijon 1972, no. 20 n.r. φσ



J.4356.131 Homme en habit violet, manteau brun, pstl/pchm, 45x37, sd *verso* "Æt. 49/Kraus Fecit/1737" (Bruxelles, Galerie Moderne, 9.XII.2024, Lot 214 repr., est. €200–300, €550) φν



J.4356.151 Dame en robe blanche, manteau rouge, pstl/pchm, 46x37, sd *verso* "Kraus f Ponsus/Sponsam Pinxit/1736" (Nancy, Nabécor, 22.VI.2019, Lot 348 repr., est. €100) [new attr.] φν



J.4356.156 Dame en robe grise, manteau bleu, pstl/pchm, 46x38, sd *verso* "Kraus fecit/1737" (Lorient, Surmely, Thierry-Lannon, 25.X.2025, Lot 593 repr., est. €60–80) φ

