

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## LA HYRE, Philippe de

1640 – Paris 1718

Son of Laurent de La Hyre (or La Hire) (*q.v.*), one of the founders of the Académie royale. He was also a celebrated astronomer, and “un des meilleurs homme du monde” according to Saint-Simon, notwithstanding his breach with La Hyre’s patron, the prince de Luxembourg. The Carnavalet portrait of the artist’s son is attributed on the basis of the strong similarities with the autoportrait. His *Traité de la pratique de la peinture*, published in 1730 but read to the Académie des sciences in 1709 (and probably written c.1699), includes important observations on the use of pastels presented in the context of scientific research rather than as a practical guide for practitioners, although it offered useful advice such as the need to maintain a homogeneous, moderately soft consistency within a set of pastels.

### Bibliography

Burns 2007, pp. 21f; Mariette 1851–60; Montgolfier 1982; Madeleine Pinault, “Note sur Philippe de La Hyre”, in La Hyre 1989; Saint-Simon, *Mémoires*, Paris, 1983, VI, p. 642

### Pastels

AUTOPORTRAIT, pstl, ov. (Paris, Observatoire, inv. I.87. Don Herissant 1771). Exh.: Paris 1967c. Lit.: La Hyre 1989, repr. p. 76φ



Augustin de LA HIRE, pierre noir, pstl, 22.8x18 ov., c.1718 (Paris, musée Carnavalet, inv. D.7999. Hippolyte Destailleur (1822–1893), architecte; Paris, Delestre, Morgand, 19–23.v.1896). Exh.: Paris 1984a. Lit.: Montgolfier 1982, no. 35 repr., *Éc. fr. XVIII<sup>e</sup>* [attr.] **Φ**



Photo courtesy musée Carnavalet