

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LEQUEU, Jean-Jacques

Rouen 14.IX.1757 – Paris 28.III.1826

Lequeu was an architect best known for having built nothing. A pupil of Descamps in Rouen, he moved to Paris and worked in the office of Soufflot and his nephew. In 1783 he travelled to Italy with his patron, the comte de Bouville; three years later he became adjoint associé at the Académie de Rouen. Later he worked as a cartographer in Paris. His projects were described as the “fantasies of an increasingly deranged mind” (Braham 1980, p. 233), and included a Temple of Silence thought to have been designed for masonic purposes.

A series of eccentric chalk self-portraits, showing him grimacing, in one case as a woman with bare breasts, exceed Ducreux and approach Messerschmidt in their subject-matter. An earlier, more restrained self-portrait has been described as a pastel, but may also be predominantly chalk. Some of his drawings are signed J.L.Q.

Bibliography

Braham 1980; Mary L. Myers, *French architectural and ornament drawings of the eighteenth century*, New York 1991; <http://archi59.e-monsite.com/pages/jean-jacques-lequeu.html>

Pastels

J.4804.101 AUTOPORTRAIT, pstl [unknown source; ?detail] 

