

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LEGILLON, Jean-François

Bruges 1.IX.1739 – Paris 23.XI.1797

Jan Frans Legillon or Le Gillon, born into an aristocratic family; Flemish animal and landscape painter and draughtsman. He was taught from the age of 12 at the Académie de Bruges, under Matthias de Visch. His mother sent him to be trained by Descamps in Rouen from 1760 and from 1767 in the école de l'Académie royale in Paris under Jean-Jacques Bachelier. Armed with recommendations from Descamps, Legillon set up in Marseille 1768–70 before travelling to Italy where (Rome) his self-portrait was executed in 1772. He returned to Bruges in 1774, where he established a drawing school (of which Jean-Charles Verbrugge was the most notable product). Legillon continued to travel in France and Switzerland (Lausanne and Fribourg). He exhibited at the Salon de la Correspondance in Paris from 1782, and was received by the Académie royale in Paris in 1789. He was associated with Joseph-Benoît Suvée. Only one pastel is known; despite the inscription corresponding to the hand seen in his other work, its subject-matter and medium are so out of character that Cockelberghs doubted it, and Pierre-François Ledoux makes no mention of it in his *Levens der konstschilders, konstenars en konstenaerssen*. (MS, Académie de Brugge, 1795).

Bibliography

C. H. Balkema, *Biographie des peintres flamands et hollandais*, 1844; Bénézit; Bruges 2007; Sanchez 2004; Warsaw 2009; W. H. J. Weale, *Catalogue du musée de l'Académie de Bruges*, 1861; Wilenski 1960

Pastels

J.4708.101 AUTOPORTRAIT, pstl/ppr, 62x49.2, sd \\
"portrait de/Jean Legillon/fait a rome/1772"
(Bruges, Groeninge Museum, inv. GRO00841.I). Exh.: Bruges 2007, no. 10 repr.
Lit.: Jeffares 2014a, p. 6 repr. φ

