

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LOUIS, dauphin de France

Versailles 4.IX.1729 – Fontainebleau 19.XII.1765
Louis XV's eldest son (and father in turn of three kings of France) is credited (but with what certainty cannot be gauged) with this coloured chalk drawing which bears a later inscription suggesting it was the work of the dauphin under the direction of La Tour. Its rather basic execution would suggest the author was a child at the time, and none of the elements confirm La Tour's involvement. A caricature by Louis (Versailles, inv. dess. 1232; exh. Versailles 2021, no. 28.), signed and dated 1747, shows no more connection with the pastellist. The dauphin's sisters were however known to have made some pastels, under the direction of Madeleine Basseporte (*q.v.*), so it is not impossible (Madame Adélaïde borrowed one La Tour's pastels in 1740, perhaps to copy it).

Pastels

J.4987.101 Amour avec le globe du monde à ses côtés, sanguine, pstl/ppr, 31.7x21.2, inscr. "DESSINÉ par le Dauphin fils de Louis XV / Sous la direction du célèbre peintre LaTour maître du prince / Portefeuille de Maurice Quentin LaTour" (Besançon, mBA, inv. D.1549. Prosper Flury-Hérard, banquier; Paris, Drouot, Delbergue-Cormont, 13–15.V.1861, Lot 105 n.r., "pastel colorié", ff225; Jean Gigoux; legs Gigoux 1894). Lit.: Chatelain 2018, no. 210 φ

