

Online edition

LUTI, Benedetto

Florence 1666 – Rome 1724

A pupil of Anton Domenico Gabbiani in Florence, Luti joined the Accademia in 1684. The influence of Nanteuil had persisted since Cosimo III's visit to the French artist's studio in 1670. Luti was ennobled and commissioned by Pope Clement XI. In 1690/91 he moved to Rome, where he copied the great masters under the direction of Ciro Ferri. In 1692 he won first place in the Concorso Clementin at the Accademia di San Luca, and he showed a large religious painting at the St Bartholomew's day exhibition. He was taken up by important connoisseurs, including the Barberini, Colonna, Ottoboni and Odascalchi families, as well as by pope Clemente XI. He was also active as a marchand amateur; Richardson described him as the "best connoisseur in the city".

Among a number of self-portraits in various media, one was described by Pio as "fatto a pastello di una bellezza indicibile da sè medesimo". Luti's pastels date from 1703. A series of pastel heads of apostles were studied for large religious paintings. Inspired by Correggio, the subtle coloration of these heads achieves a remarkable sense of volume and luminosity. Reds, yellows and oranges (unusual pigments at the time) predominate. Distinctive traces of black chalk – in hair and on clothing – betray the graphic conception behind what are some of the earliest true paintings in pastel. Some eighteenth century sale catalogues confuse works of Barocci with those of Luti.

Luti's output was so large that (echoing a refrain found in French criticism from the mid-century) in 1795 Lanzi wrote, "Facesse tanto numero che divennero quasi volgari in Europa. Egli era nato a cose maggiore." From 1704 he was one of the judges for the competitions at the Accademia di San Luca, of which he became principe in 1720. An active teacher (Jean-Baptiste and Carle Van Loo as well as numerous Italian artists), Luti's influence extended widely. Pupils such as Costanzi and Crecolini (*qq.v.*) produced pendant boys and girls in a very similar, exquisite luminous technique, while the many international pastellists trained in Rome (from Vleughels to Hoare) would have been influenced as much by his pastels as by Carriera's very different, more *sfumato* creations with distinctive Venetian colours and lighting.

Bibliography

Baudi di Vesme 1963–68, pp. 637f; Bowron 1979; Bowron 1980; Briganti 1990; Dowley 1962; Grove 1996; Mariette 1851–60; Meder 1919, p. 137; Vittorio Moschini, "Benedetto Luti", *L'arte*, XXVI, 1923, pp. 89–114; Philadelphia 2000a, pp. 392ff

Pastels

AUTORITRATTO, pstl/ppr bl.-vert, 38.7x25, illustration pour Nicola Pio, *Le vite di pittori, scultori et architetti* (Louvre 1268. Nicolo Pio. P. Crozat. P.-J. Mariette. Acqu. cabinet du roi 1775). Exh.: Nice 1838, no. 376; Paris 1990e, no. 100. Lit.: ?Moschino 1923, p. 26 n.r.; Clark 1967, no. 25, p. 13; Bowron 1980, fig. 1; Cordélia Hattori, "Contemporary drawings

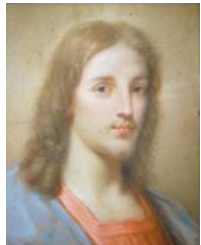
in the collection of Pierre Crozat", *Master drawings*, XLV/1, 2007, pp. 38–53, fig. 5 ♡



Cristo, pstl/ppr, 42x34, inscr. "Roma 1710 Benedetto Luti Fece"; & pendant: Maria con libro, pstl/ppr, 42x34, inscr. "Roma 1710 Benedetto Luti Fece" (Rome, Christie's, 14.XII.2004, Lot 397 repr., attr. confirmed Giancarlo Sestieri, est. €10–12,000) ♡



~version, Cristo; & different pendant (Artur Ramon Art, Salon du dessin 2012) ♡



Series of heads of the Twelve Apostles, pstl, 1712 (New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lots 120–31):

~Head of an Apostle, pstl, 41x33.3, sd verso "Roma 1712/Benedetto Luti Fece" (New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 120 repr., est. \$7–10,000. London, Christie's, 7.VII.2010, Lot 318 repr., est. £15–20,000, £32,450) ♡



~Head of an Apostle, pstl, 41x33.5 (Lawrence, University of Kansas, Spencer Museum of Art. New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 121 repr., est. \$7–10,000) ♡



~Head of a bearded man, 41x33, sd verso "Roma 1712/Benedetto Luti Fece" (Los Angeles County Museum of Art, inv. AC1996.29.1. New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 122 repr., est. \$7–10,000, \$25,300; P. & D. Colnaghi for Ian Woodner; London, Christie's, 2.VII.1991, Lot 115 repr., est. £8–12,000, £18,700, Michael Curran, Houston; New York, Christie's, 11.I.1994, Lot 223, est. \$20–30,000, \$19,550; W. M. Brady, New York & Thomas Williams, London, 1995 cat., no. 31; acqu. 1996 with funds from 1996 Collectors Committee). Lit.: Bruce Davis & al., *Master drawings in the Los Angeles County Museum of Art*, Los Angeles, 1997, no. 29 repr. ♠



larger image
Photo courtesy Sotheby's

~Head of an Apostle, 46x33, 1712 (Northampton, Smith College, inv. 1989:33. New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 126 repr., est. \$7–10,000; Thomas Agnew & Sons & David Tunick, New York; Agnew's; acqu. 1989). Exh.: Northampton 1992; New York 2000, no. 16 repr. Lit.: *Chronique des arts*, .III.1991, no. 234 repr. ♠



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

~Head of St John the Evangelist, pstl/ppr, 41x33, 1712 (Tulsa, Philbrook Museum of Art, 1993.12. New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 124 repr., est. \$7–10,000; Kate Ganz, New York; acqu. 1993) ♠



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

~Head of an Apostle reading, pstl, 41x33, sd *verso* "Roma 1712/Benedetto Luti fece" (Williamstown, Sterling & Francine Clark Art Institute, 2003.9.19. New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 123 repr., est. \$7-10,000, \$15,400; Ian Woodner; London, Christie's, 7.VII.1992, Lot 38 repr., £11,000; Alice Steiner; acqu. 2003). Exh.: Williamstown 2003; Williamstown 2008. Lit.: *Burlington magazine*, .IV.2005, p. 294 repr. **Φ**



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

~Head of an Apostle, bust length, in profile to the right, in a yellow robe, a book before him, pstl, 41.0x33.3, sd "Roma 1712/Benedetto Luti fece" (New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 129 repr., est. \$7-10,000; London, Sotheby's, 4.VII.1988, Lot 63 repr., £8580. London, Christie's, 2.VII.1991, Lot 292 repr., est. £7-10,000) **Φ**

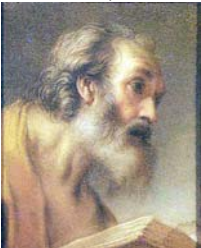


Photo courtesy Sotheby's

~Head of an Apostle, looking to the right, bust length, a tablet before him, 41.0x33.3, sd *verso* "Roma 1712/Benedetto Luti fece" (New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 127 repr., est. \$7-10,000; London, Sotheby's, 4.VII.1988, Lot 64 repr., £7150; London, Christie's, 2.VII.1991, Lot 293 repr., est. £6-8,000, £7150; New York, Christie's, 11.I.1994, Lot 224, est. \$10-15,000) **Φ**



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

~Head of an Apostle, pstl/ppr, 40.6x32.9, sd "Roma 1712/Benedetto Luti fecit" (New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 125 repr., est. \$7-10,000. Margot Gordon Fine Art, exh. Master Drawings, New York, 2011) **Φ**



~Head of an Apostle, pstl, 41x33 (New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 128 repr., est. \$7-10,000) **Φ**



~Head of an Apostle, pstl, 41x33 (New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 130 repr., est. \$7-10,000) **Φ**

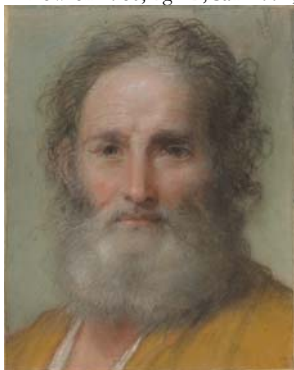


~Head of an Apostle, pstl, 41x33 (New York, Sotheby's, 14.I.1987, Lot 131 repr., est. \$7-10,000) **Φ**



~? = one of above, Head of an Apostle, 41x33.1, 1712 (Cambridge, Fogg Art Museum, 1994.144)

Head of a bearded man, pstl/ppr, 32x26.4, 1715 (Washington, NGA, inv. 1984.3.16. Professor & Mrs Julius S. Held 1980). Exh.: Philadelphia 2000a, no. 368 repr. Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 12; Sani 1991, fig. 7 **Φ**



Head of a youth, 32.5x27.5, inscr. 1716 (Rome PC 1980). Lit.: Bowron 1980, n.r.
Jeune homme, pstl, 53x46, inscr. *verso* "Roma 1718 Il Cavalier Benedetto Luti fece"

(London, V&A, P.58-1962. Legs Claude D. Rotch 1962). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 13; Philadelphia 2000a, p. 464 repr. **Φ**



Angel, cr. clr, pstl, 39.5x29.5 (Bremen, Kunsthalle). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 7 **Φ**



Testa di cherubino, pstl/ppr, 32x27, a.1713 (Uffizi, cat. 1890, no. 821, Galleria Palatina. *Olim* Poggio a Caiano). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 5 **Φ**



Testa di fanciullo, pstl/ppr, 45x35.4 (Uffizi, inv. 1890, no. 2549, corridoio Vasariano. Poggio Imperiale 1845; Uffizi 1890). Lit.: Sestieri 1973; Berti 1979, Ic626 repr. **Φ**



Photo su concessione del Ministero dei Beni e le Attività Culturali; reproduction forbidden

~version (boy), pstl/bl. ppr, 45x36 (US PC 2004; Mia N. Weiner, 2005) **Φ**



~version, with a flute, pnt., 42x33 (Hermitage, inv. 131. Sir Robert Walpole; acqu. 1779). Lit.: Dukelskaya & Moore 2002, no. 40 repr.

~related pnt. (Munich). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 8
Man with a gold earring (Providence, Rhode Island School of Design, 54.147.91) [v. Italian sch.]

San Giovanni Battista, pstl/ppr, 45x35 (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, Galleria nazionale d'Arte antica). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 6 φ



Head of bearded man, cr. clr/ppr, 39.6x29.8, c.1713 (Joseph F. McCrindle, New York, 1980). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 11 φ



Testa di fanciullo dal collare bianco, pstl/ppr, 45x35 (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, Galleria nazionale d'Arte antica) [attr.] φ



Tête d'un saint, pstl, 53x41 (Paris, Drouot, Audap Solanet Godeau-Velliet, 28.VI.1995, Lot 151 repr. Paris, Tajan, 25.VI.1998, Lot 200 repr., est. ₣30–40,000, ₣90,000) φ

Tête de jeune homme, pstl, 29.8x22.7 (Chavaillon; Châtelleraut, Christophe Sabourin, 31.V.2003, Lot 61 n.r., attr.)

Teste di apostoli, 2, pstl/ppr, a/r Raphael, 38x27.5 (Milan, Sotheby's, 4.VI.2003, Lot 87 repr., est. €4–6000, b/) φ



Homme casqué de profil, Mars?, pstl, 48x40 (Paris, Sotheby's, 23.VI.2004, Lot 7 repr., est. €10–15,000) φ



Photo courtesy Sotheby's

Kopf eines bärtigen Mannes, pstl, 42.5x28 (Vienna, Dorotheum, 31.III.2008, Lot 125 repr., est. €3–4000) φ



Tête d'apôtre, pstl, 35x27 (Paris, Drouot, Mathias, Baron Ribeyre, Farrando Lemoine, 9.IV.2010, repr.) φ



Tête de jeune femme, 41x31.5, inscr. verso "Roma 1719 il Cavalier Benedetto Luti fecit" (Bayonne, musée Bonnat, RF 50908. Jacques Petithory; legs 1992 Louvre; dep.). Exh.: Paris 1991c, no. 14 repr.; Paris 1997c, no. 304 repr. φ



Photo courtesy musée Bonnat, Bayonne

Head of a girl, black, red, green, white chlk/ppr, 33x27.7, c.1716 (Holkham). Lit.: Beatniffe 1795, p. 209 n.r.; Bowron 1980, fig. 2; Dukelskaya & Moore 2002, p. 135 n.r. φ



~cop. Horace Walpole, watercolour (Strawberry Hill). Lit.: Walpole 1784, p. 464 n.r.

Testa di fanciulla, pstl/ppr, 33x27.5, a.1713 (Uffizi, inv. 1890, no. 819, Galleria Palatina. Ferdinando de' Medici inv. 1713). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 4 φ



~repl., pstl/ppr, 40x32 (Uffizi, inv. 1890, no. 4363, gabinetto disegni) φ



~variant, black, red, green and white chlk/ppr, 35.4x27.8, a.1716 (Holkham. Acqu. Lord Leicester 1716). Lit.: Beatniffe 1795, p. 209 n.r.; Sestieri 1973; Berti 1979, 1979, n.r.; Bowron 1980, fig. 3; Dukelskaya & Moore 2002, p. 134 n.r. φ



~variant, pstl, 47x37, sd ↓ "Benedetto Luti fecit 1704" (Fredensborg). Lit.: Olsen 1961, pl. CII b; Bowron 1980, n.r. φ



~version, pnt. (Dutch PC). Lit.: Russell 1988, fig. 48

~version, pnt., 41x31.8 (London, Sotheby's, 24.IV.2008, Lot 445 repr., attr.)

~related to figure of kneeling woman in Rebecca at the well, pnt. (London, Sotheby's, 11.VII.2002, Lot 232)

Head of a woman holding a mirror, pstl, 47x37, sd ↓ "Benedetto Luti F... 1704 in Roma" (Fredensborg). Lit.: Olsen 1961, pl. CII a; Bowron 1980, n.r. φ



Cabeza de mujer, pstl, 38x30 (La Granja, Palacio real). Lit.: Fernandez 1977, p. 278, pl. LXXVIII, 1; Bowron 1980, n.r. φ



Cabeza de mujer, pstl, 38x30, pendant (La Granja, Palacio real). Lit.: Fernandez 1977, p. 278, pl. LXXVIII, 2; Bowron 1980, n.r. φ



Jeune femme, pstl, 24.8x19.3 ov. (London, V&A, D.204-1889. Acqu. 1889). Lit.: Ward-Jackson 1979-80, II, p. 154, no. 1041 repr. ?Study for the head of the Madonna in *L'adorata*, 1721 (S. Caterina d'Italia, Malta) φ



Young girl with mirror, pstl/ppr, 45.5x35 (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, Galleria nazionale d'Arte antica). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 10 φ



~related pnt. (Firle Place). Lit.: Bowron 1980, fig. 9

~repl., without mirror, pstl/ppr, 33.5x28, inscr. "Benedetto Luti fece 1705" (Siena PC. Florence, Pandolfini, 4.IV.2012, Lot 223 repr., as autograph, est. €1800-2200). Lit.: Sani 1994, p. 15, repr. p. 11; Alessandra 2009, p. 226 φ



Testa di donna con abito rosso, pstl/ppr, 45x35 (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, Galleria nazionale d'Arte antica) φ



Testa di donna con veste azzurra, pstl/ppr, 45x35 (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, Galleria nazionale d'Arte antica) φ



Testa di donna che guarda in alto, pstl/ppr, 43.5x33.5 (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, Galleria nazionale d'Arte antica) φ



Testina d'una donna con panno in capo, pstl (marchese Giovan Luca Orazio Pucci; inv. p.m. 20.III.1797, no. 94; Giuseppe Orazio Pucci (-1838spm))

Head of a woman, 24x29 (Rome art market 1965). Lit.: Bowron 1980, n.r.

Jeune fille de profil vers la g., pstl, 31x24.5 (Paris, Drouot, Audap, Godeau, Solanet, 5.XII.1984, Fr35,000)

Head of a girl, 42x32 (Galerie de Baysier, Paris, *Dessins de maîtres anciens*, 1979, no. 24 repr.). Lit.: Bowron 1980, n.r.

Head of a girl, pstl, 42x32 (Piero Corsini Gallery, New York, Christie's, 26.I.2012, Lot 78 repr., est. \$30-50,000, b/i) φ



Vierge et enfant, pstl/ppr, 39x31 (Paris, Drouot, Rieunier, Bailly-Pommery, 25.II.2000, Lot 45 repr., est. Fr20-25,000, Fr54,000) φ



Boy in a blue coat, pstl/ppr, 40.5x33, inscr. *verso* "Roma 1717/II Caval. Benedetto Luti Fec[it]"; & pendant: Girl in a red dress, pstl/ppr, 40.5x33, inscr. *verso* "Roma 1717/II Caval. Benedetto Luti Fec[it]!" (New York, MMA, inv. 2007.360/361. Hampton & Sons, London; Mrs Elizabeth Huth Coates, San Antonio; her son, Arthur Stieren, San Antonio, 1996; dep.: McNay Art Museum, San Antonio; London, Christie's, 4.VII.2000, Lot 125/126 repr., est. £30-50,000, £32,900; W. M. Brady & Co.; New York, Sotheby's, 27.V.2004, Lot 9/10 repr., withdrawn; W. M. Brady & Co., Salon du Dessin, 2005; acqu. 2007, Gwynne Andrews fund). Exh.: New York 2011, no. 1/2 repr. ⬢



Photos courtesy W. M. Brady & Co.

~related pnts. (Munich)

Gesù Bambino, pstl (Cardinale Neri Maria Corsini, Rome, inv. 1750)

S. Giovannino, pstl (Cardinale Neri Maria Corsini, Rome, inv. 1750)

Due quadrucci rappresentanti due mezze figure di donna, pstl (Alessandro Ottoboni Boncompagni, Duca di Fiano, Rome, inv. 24.X.1780)

Testa, pstl, Florence 1706 (Rev. Padre Camillo Berzighelli)

Mercurio e Testa, pstl, Florence 1737 (C. & I. Hugford)

Testina di femmina, pstl, Florence 1767 (I. Hugford)

Testa di paggio; & pendant: testa di donna di profilo (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, Galleria nazionale d'Arte antica) [v. Costanza]

Testa di paggio; & pendant: testa di donna di profilo (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, Galleria nazionale d'Arte antica) [v. Costanza]

These and four more above:

=?Sei Teste, pstl (Rome, Accademia dei Lincei. Cardinale Neri Maria Corsini, Rome, inv. a.1740; inv. 1750; inv. 1770). Lit.: Bowron 1980, n.r., n.38, ??attr.