

# Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

## **MERZ, Jacob**

Buch am Irchel, Zurich 1783 – Vienna 1807  
Painter and etcher, based in his native Zurich. From his biographer by his friend, the local pastor in Andelfingen, we learn that he was the son of a weaver, inspired to draw by the beauty of the local landscape by the age of 13. In 1797 he was apprenticed to Lips in Zurich to learn engraving for three years, where he made good progress. In 1802 he was sent to the Vienna Akademie. He died suddenly of a “nervous fever” soon after completing an important plate. A couple of drawings with pastel are known from very early in the nineteenth century. One of his self-portraits (medium unspecified) was engraved by Lips shortly after his death.

### **Monographic exhibition**

Merz 1981. *Jacob Merz 1783–1807*, Sacramento, Crocker Art Museum, 1981. Cat. Seymour Howard

### **Bibliography**

Bénézit; Johann Wilhelm Veith, *Notizen aus der Leben von Jakob Merz, Maler und Kupferstecher*, 1810

### **Pastels**

AUTOPORTRAIT, pstl, grey wash/ppr, 71.8x64.1, 1802 (Joseph and Deborah Goldyne). Exh.: San Francisco 2006, no. 12  
Jeune homme, pstl/ppr, 135x73, 1801 (Florence, Galleria d'Arte Moderna di Palazzo Pitti). Exh.: Mantua 2004, repr. φ

