

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MASSÉ, Jean-Baptiste

Paris 29.XII.1687–26.IX.1767

Pupil of Jouvenet; *reçu* 1717 as a painter and engraver (without it seems his Protestantism being raised as an objection), Massé was chiefly a miniaturist but left numerous chalk drawings, including some with touches of pastel. The possibility that he produced more finished pastels is tantalisingly suggested by the magnificent pastel version of his miniature autoportrait: the pastel is executed in a very similar technique to that of Nattier, but predates his known works in the medium by several decades. However Massé's will (2.X.1765, *n.* Doria 1929, pp. 85, 126) refers to a portrait of the miniaturist "étant très jeune" (consistent with the date of the miniatures) by Nattier, medium unspecified: the possibility cannot be excluded that the pastel is indeed by Nattier, and was copied by the subject in the two miniature versions.

Among Massé's pupils were Alphen and Liotard (*qq.n.*). He also collected portraits: his posthumous inventory (AN MC XCVII, 422, 31.X.1767; see also his testament reprinted in full in Campardon 1880) included a portrait of his brother by Lundberg, some pastels by Natoire, and a magnificent oval miniature by Carriera, the "tableau de la signora Rosalba" which he inherited from Pierre Gaudron, horloger du duc d'Orléans, in 1748 (compte d'exécution testamentaire, 2.III.1748, AN MC XVII/778).

Massé attended Perronneau's wedding in 1754. He was the subject of a magnificent portrait by Tocqué, engraved by Wille, and of a bust by Lemoyne. He was a friend of both artists, as he was of many of his contemporaries, including Mlle Basseporte.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Campardon 1880; Doria 1929; Grove; Guiffrey 1883–85, inv. p.m., AN XCVII, 422, 13.X.1767; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Marandet 2003b; Mariette 1851–60; Nattier 1999; Nougaret & Le Prince 1776, II, p. 221ff; Pappe & al. 2008; R&L p. 708; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

AUTO PORTRAIT, miniature/ivory, 7.6x6.2 ov., c.1715 (Geneva, musée de l'Horlogerie, inv. AD 7540). Lit.: Bordeaux 1995, p. 246 repr.; Pappe & al. 2008, p. 49 repr.
~miniature/ivory, 5x4.4 ov., c.1715 (PC 2008). Lit.: Pappe & al. 2008, p. 40 repr.
J.5212.101 ~version, pstl/ppr, 29x20 (US PC 2005). Lit.: Jeffares 2009 [new attr.; cf. Nattier] φρν



J.5212.1012 ~cop., pstl, 45x37 (Durand Ruel stamp *verso*. Nantes, Couton Veyrac Jamault, 26.III.2019, Lot 58 repr., éc. fr. XIX^e, inconnu, est. €80–100) [new attr., identification] φρν

J.5212.103 Homme de cour, cr. noir, pstl, 17x12 ov. (Goncourt; Paris, Drouot, 15–17.II.1897, Lot 188. M. R. Paris, Drouot Richelieu, Picard, 20.X.1994, Lot 96 repr., est. Fr15,000, Fr25,000). Exh.: Paris 1879, Lot 492, as wearing the cordon de Saint-Michel; Paris 1951a, no. 88 φ



J.5212.105 Jeune femme en buste, de face, pstl, 22.4x17, s ↓ (Copenhagen, mBA, cabinet des estampes [not located 2005]. Artist; don: Wasserschele). Exh.: Copenhagen 1935, no. 280. Lit.: *Kunstmuseets aarskrift*, XI–XII, p. 188

J.5212.106 Pastel (Auguste-Gabriel Godefroy; Paris, Le Brun, 15–19.XI.1785, Lot 164 part, 161 livres)