

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

NEILSON, Jacques

Scotland 1714 – Paris 1788

Neilson emigrated to France with his uncle, the surgeon Gilbert Neilson. He was attached to the Gobelins and was appointed tapissier du roi in 1734. Around 1743 he decided to become a painter, studying with Charles Chastelain, Charles Coypel, Parrocel and finally "...M. de La Tour qui lui a appris le pastel où il réussit si bien...", according to a recommendation from M. d'Isle to Lenormant de Tournehem in 1749, on the basis of which he returned to the Gobelins, giving up painting. He remained close to La Tour and acquired the version of the famous Autoportrait à l'index now in the Louvre.

Bibliography

A. Curmer, *Notice sur Jacques Neilson, entrepreneur et directeur des teintures de la manufacture Royale de tapisseries des Gobelins*, Paris, 1878; London, Christie's, 5.VII.2005, note to Lot 162