

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

NAIGEON, Jean-Claude

Dijon 9.XII.1753–11.I.1832

Jean-Claude was the son of Philibert Naigeon, an illiterate “domestique” to the widow of a conseiller at the parlement de Bourgogne, and his wife, Anne Valot of Dijon; he was baptised the day after his birth at Saint-Michel, Dijon, with another domestic servant as parrain. He was a pupil of Devosge at the École de dessin de Dijon; he exhibited portraits, history, mythological and religious pastels and paintings from 1771 to 1777. Claude Hoin (*q.v.*) was a witness to his marriage to Louise-Catherine Blanchot, veuve Hossart in Paris, Saint-Sulpice on 8.VI.1787. He then studied with David, and travelled to Rome before returning to Dijon to succeed Devosge as professeur de dessin at the école de Dijon in 1812. He was made a chevalier de la Légion d'honneur and conservateur du musée du Luxembourg. Naigeon served on the Commission des arts from its foundation in 1793, and was a friend and heir of Charles-Paul-Jérôme Bréa (*q.v.*).

In his own collection was a pastel by La Tour, of Mlle Clairon. Like most of Devosge's students he produced pastels at Dijon, but they were not a major part of his output. The basis for the attribution for the 2001 sale is unclear.

Jean-Claude's son Jean-Guillaume-Elzidor Naigeon (1797–1867) was also a painter, and succeeded him as conservateur du musée de Luxembourg in 1732.

There are numerous confusions with the history painter Jean Naigeon (Beaune 1.IV.1757 – Paris 22.VI.1832) who married Marie-Anne Faisneux in Paris, 15.V.1796. Jean-Claude is also incorrectly described as the brother of Diderot's friend and editor Jacques-André Naigeon (1735–1810), cousin of the history painter. The register of élèves at the École de l'Académie royale list a “Jean B... Naigon, peintre, de Dijon, âgé de 19 ans” in 1775, protégé par Doyen, and a pupil of Bronck.

Bibliography

Article nécrologique, *Journal de la Côte d'Or*, 13.I.1832; Notice, *Mémoires de l'Académie des sciences, arts et belles lettres de Dijon*, 1834; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Boussuge & Launay 2018; Bouvier d'Yvoire 1994; Sanchez 2002; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J.5516.101 ?La femme de l'artiste et sa fille, pstl, 53x65 (Paris, Pescheteau-Badin-Godeau-Leroy & De Ricqlès, 11.VI.2001, Lot 85 n.r., attr., est. fr8–12,000, fr9500)

J.5516.102 2 têtes, pstl, Salon de Dijon 1771

J.5516.103 2 têtes de caractère, pstl, Salon de Dijon 1772