

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

O'KEEFFE, John

Dublin 1747 – Southampton 1833

Miniaturist, draughtsman and landscape painter before becoming an actor and successful playwright. His *Recollections* (1826) include a picture of the training obtained in the Dublin Society schools at Shaw's Court, Dame Street, under Robert West, with whom he was placed at the age of six. West's drawing of the 8-year old O'Keeffe was preserved by Francis West and set as a study piece for future generations of pupils. By 1756 O'Keeffe was joined by Hugh Douglas Hamilton (*q.v.*). He turned from crayon to small whole-length watercolours early on, and soon decided to abandon art for the London stage. From the mid-1770s his eyesight deteriorated. O'Keeffe's brother Daniel was a miniaturist.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Crookshank & Glin 1994; McGuire 1939, p. 15; O'Keeffe 1826

Pastels

SELF-PORTRAIT, crayons, a.1764. Lit.: O'Keeffe 1826, I, p. 100 n.r.

M. BARTLETT, a German, husband of the artist's aunt, crayons, a.1764. Lit.: O'Keeffe 1826, I, p. 100 n.r.