

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

OLLIVIER, Michel Barthélémy

Marseille 24.VIII.1712 – Paris 15.VI.1784

Genre painter. The son of Louis Ollivier or Olivier, peintre à Bordeaux (by 1750) and his wife, Elisabeth Rapouillet, Michel-Barthélémy was trained by Carle Van Loo in Paris. In 1734, he accompanied his nephew Louis-Michel Van Loo to Spain. He was evidently back in Paris in 1750 where, with his brother Jean, also a painter, as witness, he married Faronne-Marie-Madeleine Lefebvre (*q.v.*). He returned to Spain with bride, remaining there until 1763 when they came back to Paris. In 1764 he exhibited his wife's portrait at the Académie de Saint-Luc. Two years later he was *agréé* at the Académie royale. A trip to England followed, when he exhibited history paintings and conversation pieces at the Royal Academy in London in 1772 (from Mr Demasso's, James Street, Covent Garden). He is not known as a pastellist, but his estate inventory (AN MC XCI/1222, 13.VIII.1784, rue de la Poterie) included "plusieurs tableaux, pastels et esquisses prisés avec le reste du mobilier". The estate passed to the king "à titre d'aubaine, bâtardise, déshérence ou autrement par sentence de la chambre du domaine du 3.VIII.1784." These may well have been his wife's work.

Bibliography

L. Bénédicte, *Gazette des beaux-arts*, XIV, 1895, pp. 453–70; Grove 1996; Hattis 1977; Ottawa 2003; Parrocel 1890, II, p. 292; Sanchez 2004; Waterhouse 1981