

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

OPIE, John

St Agnes, Cornwall 1761 – London 1807

Son of a carpenter in Devon, Opie was discovered by John Wolcot, English satirist, poet and critic (known under the pseudonym of Peter Pindar), who brought “the Cornish wonder” to London in 1781, where he exhibited at the Royal Academy and became an associate in 1787 and member the following year. He was a prolific portraitist and history painter, but normally worked in oil. The pastel shown in Paris in 1911 no doubt relates to the oil painting discussed in MacLeod 2010, but there does not seem to be any independent verification of the attribution.

Bibliography

McIntyre 2003, p. 398f; Roderick A. MacLeod, “*Peter Pindar* by John Opie”, *British art journal*, x/3, 2010, pp. 104–07; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

John WOLCOT (1738–1819), known as “Peter Pindar”, English satirist and poet, pstl, 34x25 (M. de Courcelles 1911). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 88