

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PINE, Robert Edge

London 1730 – Philadelphia 1788

Vertue mentioned in 1742 a “young Pine”, possibly Robert Edge or his brother Simon (*q.v.*), one of the “inferior Crayoneer painters of portraits...that brushes them off at a guinea apiece.”. Robert exhibited a variety of works at the Society of Artists between 1760 and 1771, at the Free Society from 1761 to 1763, and at the Royal Academy in 1772 (from St Martin’s Lane), 1780 (from Albemarle Street) and 1784 (from Cork Street). Media are rarely specified, and none can be identified as in pastel. He was in Bath between 1772 and 1779. In 1784 Pine travelled to America with the intention of becoming a history painter. He organised a fully catalogued exhibition of his work in Philadelphia that year, and over the next four years he painted a good number of portraits in oil.

The attribution to Pine of any surviving pastels is currently unsatisfactory. The example in pastel from a 2002 sale, apparently signed, is of fairly primitive quality compared with his known oil paintings. The Willis pendants, which are reduced versions of full length oils evidently by the same hand, can only be tentatively attributed, following Waterhouse’s suggestion; the idiosyncratic treatment of Willis’s wig may be discovered in other works.

Monographic exhibition

Pine 1979: *Robert Edge Pine, a British portrait painter in America, 1784–1788*, Washington, National Portrait Gallery, 1.XI.1979 – 6.I.1980. Cat. Robert G. Stewart

Bibliography

Bénézit; Bolton 1923; Grove; Oxford DNB; Simon 1998; Sloman 2002, p. 202; Vertue 1933–34, III, p. 100; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

Leonard BLEEKER, crayon (Mrs E. B. Warfield, New York, 1892). Lit.: Bolton 1923, p. 56 n.r.

Sir Wyndham KNATCHBULL-WYNDHAM, 6th Bt (1737–1763), MP for Kent, as a child in a blue coat, pstl (Kent; a UK heritage asset)

Richard WILLIS (1724–1780), deputy governor of the Levant Company; & pendant: spouse, née Bethia Legge (1735–1778), pstl, 50x40 ov., c.1760–63 (Clevedon Court, National Trust, inv. 623920/6239219, CLE/D/12, 11, LT no. 28/26. Legs Willis 1956). Lit.: Ellis K. Waterhouse, “The Willis family portraits at Lydiard Park”, *National Trust studies*, 1980, pp. 49–53, attr. R. E. Pine; Jeffares 2006, p. 576*Ai*/ii, anon. [attr.] **☛**

Young woman; & pendant: same, pstl, 53.5x44 (London, Sotheby’s, 18.III.1971, £90)

Two sisters, pendants, pstl/ppr, 56x47, sd ✓ “R. Pine pinxit Feb 1771/2” (Köln, Carola Van Ham, 6.VII.2002, Lot 973 repr./n.r., est. €2500, b/i) **☛**



Photos courtesy National Trust

~repls., pnt. (Clevedon Court, National Trust, inv. 624176/77)