

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SMITH, George

?London ?1763–c.1802

Waterhouse identifies the G. Smith who exhibited portraits at the Royal Academy from 1791 to 1802 as probably the George Smith who entered the Royal Academy Schools on 7.II.1794, aged 31; there were several homonyms after 1800 with whom confusions arise. He exhibited minatures from Wapping at the Society of Artists in 1790. In 1791 he was at 5 Church Street, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street; in 1792, 2 Fish Street Hill; from 1794, 147 Strand etc. None of these portraits was described as in crayons in the catalogue, but the reviewer in the *Morning post*, 10.V.1794, praising one of his oils, added—

We have seen some efforts from the same pencil in Crayons, in which he succeeded beyond praise; we hope that he has not relinquished this style of painting, in which, with Humphreys, he has so conspicuously excelled.

Another was identified in the 1796 exhibition in Pasquin's critique. Recently a further example has emerged, signed faintly in graphite.

Bibliography

Myrone 2022; Waterhouse 1981

Salon critiques

Anthony PASQUIN [John Williams], *A critical guide to the Royal Academy, for 1796*, London, 1796:

407 — *Portrait of a Gentleman*. G. SMITH. This is a likeness, in crayons, of Mr *Warner*, and certainly is entitled to commendation, on the force of handling, and to every encomium that can be warranted from a strong resemblance.

Pastels

J.6844.121 Mr WARNER, pstl, Royal Academy 1796, no. 407, as a gentleman. Lit.: Pasquin 1796, identified

J.6844.151 Lady in blue dress, straw hat, pstl, 74x61, sd \ “Geo Smith/1791” (PC Washington, DC; Hillsborough, North Carolina, Leland Little, 22.III.2024, Lot 1043 repr., est. \$50) φ

