

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

VENETZIANOV, Alexei Gavrilovitch

Nieshin 1779 – Safonkoroо 1847

Алексе́й Гаври́лович Венецианов; also Venetsianov. Russian portraitist, genre painter and caricaturist; pupil of Borovikovsky at the academy of St Petersburg. His father Gavril Yurievich was a dealer, and offered framed and glazed pastels according to newspaper advertisements from 1794–95; the unknown artist of these may well have influenced the son, who himself advertised in the *Sankt-Petersburgskie vedomosti*, eight years later (2.V.1802), pastels from nature in three hours. A number of pastels are known, but the earliest dates from 1804. In 1807 Venetianov joined the civil service but continued to paint in his leisure, copying Italian and Dutch old masters from the Hermitage collections. In 1808 he was a contributor to a short-lived journal of caricatures; he then took up print-making. In 1812 he joined the Academy but remained employed as a civil servant.

Bibliography

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