

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WHEATLEY, Francis

London 1747–28.I.1801

Portraitist and draughtsman, taught at Shipley's drawing school. On 13.XI.1769 he was admitted (aged 22) to the Royal Academy Schools. Best known for oils, watercolours and engravings, he exhibited some pastels between 1770 and 1772. A member of the Society of Artists, he became a director in 1772. In 1779 he had "the folly to engage in an intrigue" with the wife of Jean-Alexandre Gresse (*q.n.*); the couple fled to Dublin and remained between 1779 and 1783. He became a Royal Academician in 1791. In 1787 he married the painter Clara Maria Leigh (1767–1838). His widow married Alexander Pope (*q.n.*).

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Bénézit; Fahy 2005; Figgis 2014; Myrone 2022; Oxford DNB; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Critiques

Anon., *Morning chronicle & London advertiser*, 29.V.1772:

A Scene in Twelfth Night, Act III. By Mrs [sic] Wheatley.

A small whole length of a lady. Ditto.

A portrait of a lady, in Crayons. Ditto.

Ditto of a gentleman, in Crayons. Ditto.

If similitude in characters can recommend the art of these pieces, it undoubtedly claims it; as the persons of Dodd, Love, Miss Younge and Waldron, can be very readily recollected; but we can by no means pronounce it a good picture; we are likewise sorry to pay so bad a compliment to the first of these ladies, as to say, she has nothing about her but her *shoe* worth looking at, and even that pays none to her *foot*.

Pastels

J.7924.101 Gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1770, no. 150

J.7924.102 Gentleman, crayons, Society of Artists 1772, no. 377

J.7924.103 Lady, 3 crayons, Society of Artists 1771, no. 184†, 185†, 186†

J.7924.104 Lady, crayons, Society of Artists 1772, no. 376

J.7924.105 Child, crayons, Society of Artists 1770, no. 149

J.7924.1055 A girl, crayons (Babbage; London, Harry Phillips, 5.IV.1800, Lot 104, 17/-; Money)

J.7924.106 A country courtship, pstl, pencil, 29x20, s (Whitby, Richardson & Smith, 27.V.1999, Lot 25, £240; London, Phillips, 8.II.2000, Lot 81 n.r., est. £300–500, £300)