

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WIT, Jakob de

Amsterdam 1695–1754

Dutch painter of allegorical and mythological subjects. A pupil of Jacob van Hal, he was more influenced by the works of Van Dyck and Rubens which he studied in Antwerp, and on his return to Amsterdam in 1716 his painted ceilings with putti were much in demand from patrons such as Catharina Adriana Meerman de la Court. In a note on a painting in the Heineken sale catalogue (12.XII.1757 & seq., Lot 90), Remy commented “Ses desseins aux trois craions, au pastel, à la plume, présentent un effet piquant & d’autant plus agréable, qu’ils sont faits avec beaucoup de facilité. Ses grands Ouvrages ne sont pas faits avec moins d’intelligence.” His prolific output in various media included watercolour, etching and grisaille painting. A number of drawings are described as in coloured chalks (among them some portraits said to be in an Italianate style, influenced by Rosalba). Some seem to have the softness of fabricated pastel. They are not fully catalogued here. Among his pupils was Jacob Xavery (*q.v.*) who lived with him.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Immerzeel 1842, III, p. 240–43

Drawings in coloured chalks

Un ange, cr. clr, 23.6x22.5 (London, 3.IV.1995, £1035)

Head of an angel, black, red chlk, grey, blue wash, sd \ “JdWit/1738” (Baron Hendrick van Slingelandt (1702–1759); desc.; Amsterdam, Sotheby’s, 14.XI.2006, Lot 158 repr., est. €10–15,000, €12,000) φ



Two seraphs among the clouds; & pendant: same, cr. clr/ppr, 38x43, s “JdWit”, one d 1733 (London, Sotheby’s, 9.VII.2008, Lot 84 repr., est. £10–15,000) φ



Two seraphs, cr. clr/ppr, 33x45.3, s “JdWit/1748” (New York, Christie’s, 20.I.1997, Lot 234 repr., est. \$2–3,000, \$4830) φ

Christushoofd, pstl. Lit.: Immerzeel 1842, p. 242 n.r.

=?Christ, buste, pierre noire, reh. blanc, estompe, 23.6x21.2 (Louvre inv. MA 12629. Saint-Morys) Tête de Christ, pstl (Cornelis

Ploos van Amstel; vente p.m., Amsterdam, van der Schley, 3.III.1800 & seq., Df/140)

Seraph, pstl, chlk, wash, ink/ppr, 24.6x30 sd \ “JdWit” (Joris van Glabbeek & Marlon Elfvering; Amsterdam, Christie’s, 14–16.XII.2010, Lot 659 repr., est. €1800–2200, €4000) φ



Homme barbu regardant le ciel, trois crayons, pstl/ppr, 19x23.5 (Bruxelles, Pierre Bergé, 4.X.2011, Lot 38 repr., attr., est. €3–4000) φ

