

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DENON, Dominique Vivant, baron

Givry 4.I.1747 – Paris 27.IV.1825

A pupil of Vien, Denon was *agréé* and *reçu* by the Académie in 1787. He played a central role in arts administration under Napoleon, and was appointed directeur-général du musée Napoléon. Only the pastel autoportrait is recorded as his, although Dupuy-Vachey has plausibly queried it, but less plausibly suggested it as a nineteenth-century work derived from Denon's 1780 engraved portrait (to which it seems to bear little resemblance. There is however little evidence of Denon as a pastellist beyond some early medallion chalk drawings with pastel revealing the influence of Augustin de Saint-Aubin (probably also made in Chalon-sur-Saône). His extensive collection was sold posthumously in 1826, and included a number of pastels and drawings with pastel.

Monographic exhibitions

Denon 1999: *Dominique-Vivant Denon: l'œil de Napoléon*, Paris, musée du Louvre, 20.X.1999 – 17.I.2000

Bibliography

Baltimore 1984; Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Châtelain 1973; Chardin 1979; Darmstadt 1914; Dupuy-Vachey 2007; Grove 1996; La Fizelière 1873; Lelièvre 1952; Lelièvre 1993; New York 1989b; New York 1999a; Rosenberg 2007; Sanchez 2004; Saur

[COLLECTORS](#)

Pastels

J.2678.101 [?]AUTO PORTRAIT, pstl/ppr, 54.5x45.5 ov., c.1780 (Chalon-sur-Saône, musée Denon, inv. D.129. Acqu. c.1954). Lit.: Louis Armand-Calliat, *Musée de Chalon-sur-Saône*, 1963, no. 243; Philippe Sollers, *Le Cavalier du Louvre*, Paris, 1995, repr.; Dupuy-Vachey 2007, no. 97 repr., as XIX^e cop. a/r 1780 autoportrait gravé φ?α?δν



BARERE de Vieuzac, s "DV" (Paris, musée Carnavalet, inv. D.4362) [n. Boze]