

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BARRALET, John James

Dublin 1747 – Philadelphia 1815

Barralet (also Barelet, Barolet) was a painter, engraver and draughtsman of portraits, landscapes and genre pieces. His initial training was with James Mannin in the Dublin Society school, where he won a prize in 1764 and is likely to have studied pastel. He moved to London in 1770, where he set up a drawing academy in James Street, 1773, moving to Great Dean's Yard, Westminster in 1776 and St Alban's Street, Pall Mall in 1777. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1773 and 1776 and at the Society of Artists from 1773 to 1780, becoming a fellow in 1777. These works included theatrical scenes as well as landscapes, executed in Italian chalk, in the manner of Vernet. He returned to Dublin 1779 but failed to secure a permanent position at the Dublin Society school. He moved to Philadelphia in 1795 where he worked as a book illustrator. Dunlap mentions a "Barolet", an Irish-French-man who had been a teacher of drawing in Dublin, "extravagant & eccentric...a great beau though lame". Although Strickland lists him as a painter in crayons, it is unclear if any of his works was in fact in pastel. There may also be confusions with his brother John Melchior Barralet who exhibited "tinted drawings" at the Royal Academy from 1775.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Crookshank & Glin 1978; Crookshank & Glin 1994; Dublin 1969; *Diary of William Dunlap*, New York, 1930, III, p. 706; Figgis 2014; McGuire 1939, pp. 13f; Saur; Strickland 1913