Neil Jeffares, Dictionary of pastellists before 1800

Online edition

BARRY, François

fl. Rome, Paris 1788–96

All that is known of François Barry is the entry in the livret for the Salon de 1796, where he is described as "élève de l'Académie de Saint-Luc, à Rome, rue Ménilmontant, no. 3". He showed four portraits, presumably in oil: a man beside a lake; a child as Bacchus, and a self-portrait, made in Rome in 1788, with a pendant of an unnamed woman. A chalk and pastel drawing also from 1796 is the only example known (previously attributed to the miniaturist John Barry); the lady is shown in a trompe l'œil oval drawing mount, inscribed with a daisy and the letter G, possibly code for the painter Marguérite Gérard (her features correspond with the portraits by Fragonard and Dumont).

He may be the François Barry who, with his wife Anne-Denise Lepetit, purchased the former church of La Madeleine, rue de la Ville-l'Evêque from members of the Giraud family, 9.V.1803 (AN MC/RE/XLVII/9).

Pastels

J.1286.101 [?Marguerite GÉRARD (1761–1837), peintre], cr. clr/ppr, 24.2x19, sd "BARRY/fecit/frimaire/1796" (Andrew Wyld, W/S Fine Art exh., Summer 2005, no. 13, as by John Barry; London, Christie's South Kensington, 18.VII.2012, Lot 796 repr., est. £800–1200, £213). Lit: Jeffares 2012a, fig. 3 [new attr., new identification] φ

