

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BERCZY, William von Moll

Wallerstein 10.XII.1744 – New York 5.II.1813
Painter, architect, pioneer and writer. He was born Johann Albrecht Ulrich Moll, the son of a prominent diplomat. He was educated at the Akademie in Vienna and the university of Jena. By the end of the 1770s he had set up in Florence as a miniaturist under the name of Berczy. Around 1790 he moved to London. He and his wife, née Charlotte Allamand (1760–1839), from Lausanne, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1790 from 28 Pall Mall. In 1792 they emigrated to North America with a group of some 200 immigrants from Germany. Several pastels of heads in profile are known, of Montréal fur-traders, lawyers and soldiers (they are said to embody the precision and clarity of Wedgwood medallions), but all are well into the nineteenth century and are not catalogued here.

Monographic exhibitions

Berczy 1991: *Berczy*, Ottawa, National Gallery of Canada, 8.XI.1991–5.I.1992. Cat. Mary Allodi & al.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Harper 1977, p. 63; Ronald J. Stagg, article in *Dictionary of Canadian biography online*, 2000