

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BESCHEY, Balthasar

Antwerp 1708–1776

Also Besschey; history painter and portraitist. He was one of five brothers, four of whom were painters, three his pupils. He was taught by Pieter Strick. He specialised in the production of copies and pastiches of early Flemish and Dutch pictures (Teniers, Rubens etc.). From c.1744 he painted religious pictures for churches in Antwerp. He was a master in the Antwerp Guild in 1753, becoming dean in 1756, and was professor-director of the Antwerp Academy from 1755. He was also a collector and dealer. His brother Joseph Hendrik worked in Britain under the pseudonym Francis Lindo (*q.v.*). Another brother, Jan Frans, was also active in England; John Francis Nollekens (presumably a brother of the sculptor) was apprenticed to him for 7 years from 1748.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Wilenski 1960

Pastels

J.1516.101 Marten Jozef GEERAERTS (1707–1791), painter, pstl, 47x38 ov. (Antwerp, Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsteninv. 15. Don Thérèse de Bie a.1881). Lit.: *Antwerp. Royal Museum. Catalogue*, 1881, no. 15 n.r.; *Koninklijk Museum voor Schone Kunsten, Catalogue descriptif*, 1958, I, no. 15 φ

