

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BOEL, Pieter

Antwerp 10.X.1622 – Paris 3.IX.1674

Painter, engraver and maker of tapestry cartoons. His father was the engraver Jan Boel, and he studied also with Jan Fyt and Frans Snyders. He travelled to Italy with his uncle, the painter Cornelis de Wael, returning to Antwerp in 1650 where he joined the guild of St Luke. In 1668 he moved to Paris where he was appointed peintre du roi. A series of some 300 drawings of animals in the royal menageries of Versailles and Vincennes were executed in black chalk with touches of pastel for the Gobelins under the direction of Charles Le Brun between 1668 and 1674; they remained in Le Brun's studio after Boel's death, entered the royal collection in 1690, and are now in the Louvre. Several were exhibited in Atlanta 2006 (nos. 45–48). They are not catalogued here. Boel's name sometimes appears as, and was probably pronounced, "Boule"; one possible explanation of the quaintly named "Couloir des poules" in the Louvre was that it was the site of his logement.

Mongraphic exhibitions

Boel 2001: *Sur le vif. Dessins animaux de Pieter Boel (1622–1674), peintre des animaux de Louis XIV: le fonds des études peintes des Gobelins*, Paris, musée du Louvre, 14.IX.–17.XII.2001. Cat. Madeleine Pinault-Sorensen

Bibliography

Atlanta 2006; Pierre Rosenberg, *Dictionnaire amoureux du Louvre*, Paris, 2007

Pastels

J.1618.101 Chien debout, tourné à gauche, pierre noire, sanguine, pstl, rehauts de blanc/ppr gr., 29x44 (Louvre inv. 29596. Cabinet du roi). Exh.: Boel 2001; Atlanta 2006, no. 45 repr. ϕ

