Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CLARKE, Thomas

Dublin ? – ?London 1775

Also Clark. Irish portraitist, trained initially in the Dublin Society drawing school from 1765, sending three portraits to the Society of Artists exhibition in 1767 from Dame Street. He moved to London the following year, and was enrolled in the Royal Academy Schools in London on 4.IV.1769. He was awarded a silver medal in 1770, and exhibited portraits from Col. Nugent's, John Street, Mayfair (1769, 1770; Edmund Craggs-Nugent (1731–1771) was the son of the 1st Earl Nugent and a lieutenant colonel in the 1st Foot Guards) and Mr Ellis's, Little St Martin's Lane (1775). Oliver Goldsmith introduced him to Sir Joshua Reynolds, but he did not remain long in his studio, his sense of colour and aptitude for painting being well below his draughtsmanship. He worked primarily in oil but is said to have made chalk and pastel drawings.

Bibliography

McGuire 1939, p. 14; Oxford DNB; Saumarez Smith 2012, p. 138; Saur; Strickland 1913; Whitley 1928