

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CLERMONT, Jean-François, dit Ganif

Paris 1717 – Reims 1807

A painter of history, landscape and religious subjects in oil or gouache; professeur of the Académie de Saint-Luc, where he exhibited from place de Sorbonne (1753), rue du Four Saint-Germain (1756), rue du Vieux-Colombier (1762). He exhibited several pastels in 1762; that year he was appointed to the drawing school at Reims on a salary of 1500 livres with the requirement that he taught eighteen pupils free. There he remained until his retirement in 1789 and his death. According to Walpole (1828) he spent many years in England where he worked for the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Marlborough and Walpole himself before his return to France in 1754. He would appear to be the “Mr Clermont Disciple of Mr Baptist” who advertised in the *London daily post and evening advertiser* on 18.XII.1740, noting that “the principal part of his Time, being employ’d in the Villa’s of the Nobility and Gentry; his Collection of Pictures will be sold at Auction, on Monday next, and the following day, at the Black-Lyon, in Thrift-street, St Ann’s.” It included “some curious Enamel and Miniature Paintings, by Cooper, Liotard and Serre.” Walpole subsequently visited Sceaux (25.IX.1767), where he saw the cabinet in which the duchesse du Maine had Clermont paint the faces of her courtiers onto the bodies of monkeys.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Dussieux 1856, p. 169; Guiffrey 1915, p. 229; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur; Walpole 1828, pp. 118f

Pastels

J.2302.101 Quatre têtes d’enfants, études, pstl,
Salon de Saint-Luc 1762, no. 28