

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

COLLINS, William

1750 – Greenwich 1819

The W. Collins who exhibited pastel portraits at the Society of Artists as an amateur is presumably to be identified with the “William Collins” whose self-portrait, with that of his wife, appeared at auction in 2009. According to his obituary in the *Gentleman's magazine*, he was an artist “of no mean skill, and although he merely pursued the art as a recreation, his crayon portraits are striking specimens of bold outline, rich colouring and strong resemblance”. He was also an inventor and philanthropist. He owned land at Frolesworth in Leicestershire and Maze Hill, Greenwich.

Bibliography

Gentleman's magazine, LXXXIX, 1819, pp. 582–83;
Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.2332.101 SELF-PORTRAIT; & pendant: J.2332.102 spouse, née Sarah Astill, of Birmingham, pstl, 66x53, restored W. Heath Robinson 1933 (Aylsham, Keys, 9.X.2009, Lot 312 repr., est. £200–300) ☐



J.2332.105 Gentleman, pstl, Society of Artists 1791, no. 48

J.2332.106 Lady, pstl, Society of Artists 1791, no. 49