

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

COOPER, Samuel

London 1609–5.v.1672

The celebrated miniaturist also made a small number of chalk drawings of exceptional beauty. Norgate includes “the very worthy and generous” Cooper with Hoskins and the Olivers among artists practising a certain type of drawing: “The busines I meane is Crayon, when it speakes French, but Dry Colours in English.” He goes on to narrow Cooper’s use of the medium: “those made by the Gentile M^r Samuel Cooper with a white and black Chalke upon a Coloured paper are for likenes, neatnes, and roundnes *a bastanza da fare stupire e maravigliare ogni acutissimo ingegno.*”

It is unclear whether the profile of Hoskins noted by Vertue as in “cryons” was a chalk drawing of this kind. Similarly John Evelyn’s *Diary* (10.1.1662) describing the artist at work remains ambiguous:

Being called into his Majesty’s closet when Mr Cooper, the rare limner, was crayoning the King’s face and head, to make the stamps for the new milled money now contriving, I had the honour to hold the candle while it was doing, he choosing the night and candlelight for the better finding out of the shadows.

The only other indication that Cooper worked in coloured pastel rests in the disputed self-portrait in the V&A. Although accepted by Vertue as his self-portrait, it may be the same work Vertue previously identified as by a certain Jackson (*q.v.*), which may be a confused reference to John Hoskins Jr. It is certainly of lesser quality than one might expect from this artist, but the unfamiliarity of the medium (possibly exacerbated by subsequent losses) might explain some of this discrepancy.

Vertue records a copy in crayons of one of Cooper’s miniatures by Col. James Seymour (*q.v.*).

Monographic exhibitions

Cooper 1974: *Samuel Cooper and his contemporaries*, London, National Portrait Gallery, 1974. Cat.

Daphne Foskett

Cooper 2013: *Warts and all*, London, Philip Mould & Co., 13.XI.–7.XII.2013. Cat. Emma Rutherford & Bendor Grosvenor

Bibliography

Bénézit; Edmond 1978; Daphne Foskett, *Samuel Cooper 1609–1672*, London, 1974; Foskett 1987; Hofstetter 2008; London 1987a; Norgate 1919; Norgate 1997, pp. 101, 194f, 197; Oxford DNB; Saur; Wright 2006

Pastels

?SELF-PORTRAIT (*London, V&A*), *v. Jackson*

Oliver CROMWELL (*Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge*), *v. Faithorne*

12372.101 John HOSKINS [(c.1590–1665), miniaturist, uncle of the artist], almost profile, cryons (Lawrence Cross; sale, 5.XII.1722). Lit.: Vertue 1, p. 107; Walpole 1762, III, p. 150