COSTANZI, Placido

Rome 1702–1759

Mythological and religious painter who worked also in fresco and occasionally pastel. These are not mentioned by Gaburri, who notes however that his frescos for the casa Zanzedari in Siena were executed in the 1730s "con molto plauso".

The son of a goldsmith, he was a pupil of Trevisani and of Luti, spending five years with each; throughout his career he studied the work of old masters, and drew constantly. It is said that he lacked the natural talent of a Batoni, but made up for it by his diligence. During his career he became wealthy and married well. In 1741, he became a member of the Accademia di San Luca; he subsequently became president. He acted as perito, or expert appraiser, for the paintings collection in the estate of marchese Patrizio Patrizi in 1747. By 1750 he was president of the Virtuosi al Pantheon, and his estate was left jointly to this society and the Accademia di San Luca.

The Corsini pastels were formerly attributed to Luti until Clarke noticed the connection with Costanzi. Their curious romanticism anticipates the sensibility of half a century later.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Bowron 1980; Briganti 1990; A. M. Clarke, "Introduction to Placido Costanzi", *Paragone*, XIX, 219, 1968; Gabburri, *Vite di pittori*, p. 2165-IV-C208R; Grove; Marshall 2003, p. 38; Philadelphia 2000a, pp. 352ff

Pastels

J.2414.101 Amorino, pstl (Placido Costanzi, Rome, inv. 12–16.X.1759)

J.2414.102 Testa di vecchio, pstl (Placido Costanzi, Rome, inv. 12–16.X.1759)

J.2414.103 Testa di paggio di profilo; & pendant: J.2414.104 Testa di donna di profilo, pstl/ppr, 45x36, 1724 (Rome, Palazzo Corsini, inv. FN 1403). Lit.: Cat. 1883, no. 577/573; Bowron 1980, fig. 15/14 φ