

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

CUITT, George

Moulton, Yorkshire 1743 – Richmond,
Yorkshire 1818

Also Cuit. Yorkshire landscape painter and occasional portraitist. According to his obituary, some crayon portraits made by the self-taught artist attracted the admiration of Sir Lawrence Dundas. Dundas commissioned him to draw his children, and then sent him to Italy in 1769. He remained in Rome for six years, turning to landscape painting. A note in the *General evening post* on 18.VI.1773 mentioned him—

No less pleasing are the accounts of George Cuit, a young man, also a native of this place [Richmond, Yorkshire], who, discovering an early genius and taste for portrait painting, was sent to Rome with Mr [Thomas] Harrison, and supported by the same munificent hand above mentioned [Dundas], and who, since his arrival there, has exhibited such a variety of proofs of masterly execution and improvement, as reflect great honour on himself and his country; and, from the merit of some of his paintings lately arrived in London, stands fair soon to rank among the highest of his profession.

On his return to England he painted a view of Moor Park for 100 gns. His health induced him in 1777 to retire to Richmond where he died; his only son, also George, placed a monument to this “ingenious artist and very worthy man” in Richmond Church. The handful of oil portraits are provincial, if meticulous; while no authenticated pastel is known, an anonymous, apparently French portrait of his patron, Sir Lawrence Dundas (*v. Éc. fr.*), could conceivably be by Cuitt.

Bibliography

Gentleman's magazine, LXXXVIII, .III.1818, p.278; Ingamells 1997; Oxford DNB; S. Spooner, *Biographical history of the five arts*, I, 1865, p. 240; R. V. Taylor, “Celebrated Yorkshire artists”, *Old Yorkshire*, 1881, p. 41; Waterhouse 1981