

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DEBUCOURT, Philibert-Louis

Paris 1755–1832

Also known as de Bucourt, but in fact the son of an usher at the Châtelet. He was a pupil of Vien in 1774; he had registered at the Académie royale from 1767, under Allegrain. Debucourt became a member of the Académie de Saint-Luc and also of the Académie royale, where he was *agrégé* 1781 as a genre painter. According to the *Mémoires secrets* for 30.VII.1781, reporting on the session of the Académie three days earlier, “la composition de tous les sujets a été jugée bien ordonnée & la couleur de cet artiste aimable & vigoureuse en même tems.” In 1783 his (first) wife, Marie-Élisabeth-Sophie Mouchy, a niece of the sculptor Pigalle, died; and his two daughters died in 1786 and 1788. At this time he switched his focus and specialised in aquatint engraving from about 1785. In 1803 he married his neighbour at Passy, Mlle Marquant, of whom he had made a portrait in chalk and gouache, possibly with touches of pastel (the background shows a curious stipple effect). A pastel apparently signed 1808 has a conventional porcelain finish. His drawings are rare, those with pastel rarer; and the wide range of techniques in the few known examples is difficult to explain.

Monographic exhibitions

Debucourt 1920: Paris, Musée des arts décoratifs, 11.VI.–11.VII.1920

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Cambridge 1999; Fenaïlle & Vaucaire 1899; Gaechtens & Lugand 1988, p. 334; Goncourt 1880; Grove 2000; Guiffrey 1915, p. 246; Jal 1867, p. 290; Ottawa 2003; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Saur

GENEALOGIES [Pigalle](#)

Pastels

J.2612.101 Mme Philibert-Louis DEBUCOURT, née Suzanne-Françoise Marquant (1761–1831), deuxième femme de l'artiste, pierre noire, aquarelle, gch., 21.5x18 ov., *olim* inscr. “Mon amie, Je... Pour la vie, tone ami, De Buco... an 7” [1799/1800] (British Museum, inv. 2007,7039.1. Jean-Pierre-Marie Jazet (1788–1871), neveu du modèle; desc.: 1897; acqu. Maurice Fenaïlle (1855–1937); desc.; Paris, Drouot, Brissonneau, 7.VI.2006, Lot 39 repr., attr. Jules Boilly, inconnue, est. €600–800, €2900; W. M. Brady; Salon du dessin 2007, acqu.). Exh.: Paris 1906, no. 115; Debucourt 1920, no. 34 repr.; London 2016a. Lit.: Goncourt 1880, repr. opp. p. 286, as pstl; Fenaïlle & Vaucaire 1899, p. 305, no. 13; p. 342 repr., as gch. Φσ



J.2612.105 ?Mme HAMELIN, née Jeanne-Geneviève-Fortunée Lormier-Lagrange (1776–1851), célèbre beauté, pstl, 25x18.6, sd v “P.-L. Debucourt 1808” (M. M.; Paris, Drouot, 28.VI.1938, Lot 27 repr. Paris, Drouot, PIASA, 26.III.2003, Lot 104 repr., Éc. fr. début XIX^e, est. €1500, €1300) Φσ



J.2612.107 Jeune femme, cr. clr, Ø30 rmd., sd “D 1804” (Féral; exh. cat., 25.XI.–15.XII.1927, repr.) Φ

