

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DELACOUR, William

?France c.1700 – Edinburgh 1767

Also De La Cour. Portraitist, engraver, topographical and decorative artist in oil and pastel. He also supplied watercolours and pastels. (Alexander 2021 suggested that he be identified with the Guillaume de la Court, son of Salomon, a weaver of Bethnal Green (in 1704 when he married) and his wife, Marie-Magdelaine du Bois, baptised in the Huguenot church, Threadneedle Street, 8.1.1710; but a William De La Court of Bethnal Green was buried in Christ Church, Sptalfields in 1747.) He first appears in London in 1739 where he engraved at least nine drawings of women in Turkish costumes after Liotard. In 1740 he reappears as designer for Pescetti's opera *Busiri* at the King's Theatre. A trade card issued around 1743 issued by "De La Cour/At the Golden Head in Katherine Street/in the Strand" advertised "the most Beautifull Crayons of a particular Composition", while an advertisement in the *Daily advertiser* of 26.IV.1743 offered a "choice of very fine pastels" as well as one of his series of *Books of ornaments*. Further such advertisements locate him in London between 1740 and 1753 (Coventry Court, Haymarket 1743–45, Catherine Street, Strand, 1747, Great Russell Street 1752 ("portrait painter in oil and pastel"), New Broad Street 1753), offering also to "teach Gentlemen and Ladies to draw, and paint in Crayons and Water-Colours, both at home and abroad." He may be the William De-la-Cour of London Wall who married a Mary Reynolds in the May Fair Chapel, Albemarle Street on 17.XI.1752. In the *Public advertiser*, 21.II.1753, he announced the sale of his household furniture, pictures etc. as he had been invited to establish an academy in Dublin, where he was recorded 1753–57 (Ormonde Quay, then College Green according to a newspaper advertisement of .IX.1753). He was then in Edinburgh 1757–67, where from 1760 he taught in the Trustee's Academy School of Art. An oil self-portrait of 1765 is in the SNPG.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Bénézit; British artists' suppliers at npg.org.uk; Caw 1975, p. 35; Croft-Murray 1962, pp. 199f; John Fleming, "Enigma of a Rococo artist", *Country life*, CXXXI, 1962, pp. 1224–6; London 1985b, no. 237; R&L, pp. 22, 290; Saur; Strickland 1913, p. 272; Thieme & Becker; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

J.2622101 Tommy STONE (c.1748–1761), son of Andrew Stone, preceptor to George III, pstl/ppr, 65x49.5, sd *verso* "Delacour pre 1750" (London, Christie's, 24.III.1981, Lot 54 repr., £400. London, Christie's, 10.VII.1990, Lot 121 repr., as unknown child, est. £1000–1500; London, Christie's South Kensington, 11.VI.1992, Lot 3 n.r., as unknown child, est. £300–500, £495) ◊



J.2622103 Gentleman in a violet coat, pstl/ppr, 48.3x41.3, sd v "Will Delacour pinx Edinb 1763" (William & Eleanor Wood Prince, Chicago; New York, Christie's, 9–10.II.2009, Lot 81 repr., est. \$2500–3500; New York, Christie's, 1–2.IX.2009, Lot 165 repr., est. \$1000–1500) ◊



J.2622105 Young woman, pstl, 58x46, sd 1744 (Amsterdam, Paul Brandt, 20.XI.1973, Lot 54 repr., D/1600)