

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DUMESNIL, Frédéric

Bruxelles a.1710–7.XI.1791

Also du Mesnil; Dumaisnil. His father, François du Mesnil, was still living in 1732 when Frédéric was reçu, comme étranger, in the gilde de Saint-Luc, Bruxelles. (A Jan Frans Dumesnil was registered as a master in the Antwerpsche Sint Lucas Gilde 1728–29.) At Notre-Dame de la Chapelle, Bruxelles, on 7.IV.1731, he married Marie-Philippine Cau ou Caussus (1707– ; Laloire speculated that Dumesnil was born c.1710 on the basis of his likely age at marriage, but his wife was born in 1707 suggesting he may have been born before that). He was remarried twice: on 24.VIII.1743, again at ND de la Chapelle, to Claire de Cuyper (whose death was recorded in the same parish on 30.III.1763), and, finally in 1767, to Marie Gerstmans (although on his burial entry, again at Notre Dame de La Chapelle, he was recorded as “Fredericus de Menij, viduus Clarae De Cuijper”). His son François-Frédéric (born 22.XI.1754, baptised in the same parish, with parrain Jean-François Barrière de Fompré) was a pupil at the Académie des beaux-arts, Bruxelles, in 1771.

Dumesnil was court painter to Leopold Philippe d’Arenberg (1690–1754) in Brussels from 1730. The family accounts record numerous paintings as well as payment for restoration etc. Two Liotard pastels ([1.49.1488](#), [1.49.2001](#)) are evidently the items in an 18.X.1752 memoir:

Repeint deux portraits de Leurs Majestés impériales,
en pastel, qui étaient tout gâtés, 7½ jours, le 9 may
1752 24 fl. 9s. 9d.

There is no other evidence that he worked in pastel.

Bibliography

Edouard Laloire, *Seigneurie d’Enghien. Documents & notices concernant l’histoire de la seigneurie d’Enghien*, Enghien, 1914/22, p. 172ff; P. Rombouts & T. van Lierus, *De Liggeren*, 1872, II, pp. 753, 755–56; registres paroissiaux de Notre-Dame-de-La-Chapelle