

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FALCONET, Pierre-Étienne

Paris 1741–1791

Son of the sculptor Étienne-Maurice Falconet or Falconnet (1716–1791). Following a quarrel with his father, he went to England in 1768, and was admitted (as Peter Falconet) as a student in the Royal Academy on 14.II.1769 with Reynolds as tutor. According to Edwards, “on his first arrival in London, he drew the profile portraits of twelve of the principal English artists, in black lead, and a slight tint of colour on the cheeks and draperies.” These small medallion portraits, among them one of Francis Cotes, were engraved by Pariset and published by Ryland. They may erroneously have been described as in “crayons”; no pastel as such has survived. He also worked in oil, as a self-portrait from 1770 demonstrates. He exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1773 from an address in Great Ealing. In that year he was reconciled with his father, whom he joined in St Petersburg; there he met one of his pupils, the talented portrait sculptor Marie-Anne Collot, whom he married in 1777, but subsequently ill treated.

Bibliography

Edwards 1808; Foskett 1987; Graves 1905; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Marie-Liesse Pierre-Dulau, “Trois artistes lorrains à Saint-Pétersbourg”, in Jean-Pierre Poussou & al., *L’Influence française en Russie au XVIII^e siècle*, Paris, 2004, pp. 149ff; Saumarez Smith 2012, p. 128; Waterhouse 1981