

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FERGUSON, James

Keith 25.IV.1710 – London 17.XI.1776

The son of a farm-worker, Ferguson became interested in astronomy and scientific instruments as well as art. His talent for drawing led to a career as a portraitist, specialising in ink on vellum miniatures, in Edinburgh, London (where he moved in 1742, advertising in 1746 and 1752) and Cumberland. He exhibited at the Royal Academy. His few pastels are reminiscent of Ramsay or early Reynolds. He appears to have worked on a green ground which provides distinctive tints in his shadows. It is far from clear that he worked in pastel, and the attribution of the example given to him by Sée in 1911 for unknown reasons should be regarded with caution.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Edinburgh 2008; Saur; Sée 1911

Pastels

J.312.101 Lady, pstl, 74x61 (Mrs Walker). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 48. Lit.: Sée 1911, repr. p. 309 [?attr.] Φ?α

