

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

FISCHER, Jacob Adolph

Magdeburg 28.VI.1751–29.III.1813

Miniaturist and portraitist, he worked in Berlin, where he was first a pupil and then, from 1788, an honorary member of the Akademie. Chodowiecki thought highly of him, saying (1792) that he painted “viel besser” than Philipp Jacob Louterbourg, then on a short visit to Berlin. Chodowiecki also described his submission to the 1787 Akademie (no. 165, letter 11.V.1787): “Herr Fischer hatt eine sehr artige Manier in Pastel zu mahlen, es ist Bey nah nichts als Grau und röthlich damit weiss er eine so artige harmonie in seine Gemälde zu bringen – aber sie haben weder Kraft noch Ähnlichkeit. Er ist aus Magdebourg.” The critic in the *Journal von und für Deutschland* (1789, p. 316) thought his submissions to the next salon “recht gut gezeichnet, aber ohne Kraft und Ausdruck”.

In 1792 he travelled to Amsterdam, and two years later to Hirschberg in Schlesien, where he married in 1799. An oil portrait of Gleim’s brother in Halberstadt was formerly catalogued as in pastel, but no work in this medium has survived, apart perhaps from one pastel, formerly with a pendant, catalogued as by “Fischer” in 1954 but subsequently anonymous; technically it is close to the work of Daniel Caffé d. Ä.



Bibliography

Börsch-Supan 1994, p. 12; Chodowiecki 1919; Chodowiecki 1921; Scholke 2000

Salon critiques

Anon., Berlin 1788, *Journal von und für Deutschland*, VI, 1789, pp. 311ff.

Von H. Fischer, Miniaturmahler aus Magdeburg, Verschiedene Bildnisse, in Pastell, recht gut gezeichnet, aber ohne Kraft und Ausdruck.

Pastels

J.3166.101 Ein Mannsbildnis, pstl, Berlin 1787, no. 165

J.3166.102 Zwei Mannsbildnisse, pstl, Berlin 1791, no. 43

J.3166.103 Drei Frauensbildnisse, pstl, Berlin 1787, no. 165

J.3166.104 Verschiedene Bildnisse, pstl, Berlin 1788

J.3166.112 Man in a blue coat, white stock; & pendant: J.3166.113 lady in a pale blue dress, pstl, 54x46 (W. B. Cayley-Mann (1878–1952); sale, p.m., London, Christie’s, 19.III.1954, Lot 24 repr., with pendant; 3 gns. (*Man only*); Auction, Surrey, 14.X.1966. US PC; Lorton, Virginia, Ararity Auctions, 15.XII.2024, Lot 183 repr., anon., est. \$300–500, \$650) [new attr., ?] φαv