

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

HUËT, Jean-Baptiste-Marie

Paris 15.X.1745–27.VIII.1811

Huët came from an extended dynasty of animal and flower painters, of which his father Nicolas (c.1718–1792), who gave him his first lessons, and uncle Christophe II (1700–1759) were members of the Académie de Saint-Luc. Tradition has it that he was apprenticed to the animal painter Charles Dagomer at the Académie de Saint-Luc before enrolling at the Académie royale as a pupil of Leprince from 1764. He was *agréé* 1768, *reçu* 1769. He worked also with Fragonard and Boucher (*qq.v.*) on a decorative scheme for Demarteau's house in Paris 1765–70. He married, in Paris, Saint-Germain-l'Auxerrois on 27.XI.1769 (witnesses included three other saint-lucien painters, Etienne Boussingault, Louis Thibault de Montigny and François Louvain Chevalier), Marie-Geneviève Chevalier, the daughter of Jean-François Chevalier (*n. s.n.* Jean Chevalier); she died in 1781, and two years later (17.IX.1783) he married Marie-Madeleine Vacavant. His posthumous inventory was made at 13 rue Hautefeuille, 5.XI.1811.

Huët's occasional use of pastel in animal scenes is documented from 1767 on, and his first wife's inventory included a pastel head of a girl, evidently made before 1781. A puzzle surrounds the attribution of a pastel copy of one of Boucher's portraits (which could be the same work). It is apparently signed "J. B. Huet" (the form similar but not identical to later examples) and dated "août 1761"; if his signature, it would advance the date of his association with Boucher. But it is difficult to believe that the 15 year old would have been so accomplished at this stage.

This may by a simple confusion with his homonym Jean-Baptiste-André Huët, who also signed "J. B. Huet" (on some topographical drawings made in Rome, ENSBA; however the signature on documents from 1787 and 1793 are unlike that on the pastel, spelling *hüet*), but of whom no other pastel is known. This history painter (1742–1801), apparently unrelated, was the son of a marchand vinaigrier André Huët, who died in 1749 (leaving a sum of 5000 livres and it seems a property to be let), and Marie-Anne Gagné; his tuteur was Jean-Baptiste Giroux, a patissier, rue Montmartre (whose address appears in the registres de l'Académie royale in 1765). He was a pupil of Noël Hallé from 1765, winning prizes in 1767 and 1770. He was in Rome in 1773, profiting from the support of a banker. He lived at 31 rue du faubourg Saint-Martin, married Anne-Geneviève Le Roux, from a family of butchers, and left two daughters, Geneviève-Jeanne and Pierrette-Adélaïde.

Monographic exhibition

Huet 2016: *Jean-Baptiste Huet: le plaisir de la nature*, Paris, musée Cognacq-Jay, 6.II.–5.VI.2016. Cat. Benjamin Couilleaux

Bibliography

Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Chatelus 1991, p. 166f; Gabillot 1903; Geneva 1876; Hug 1998; Ottawa 2003; Paris 1974b; 51 repr. φ

Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Thieme & Becker; Toledo 1975

GENEALOGIES [Huët](#)

Pastels

[J.4086.101](#) [Nicolas HUËT (c.1718–1792)], père de l'artiste (Joseph Huët)

[J.4086.102](#) [Mme Nicolas HUËT, née Marie-Madeleine Collard (1718–1780)], mère de l'artiste (Joseph Huët)

[J.4086.1025](#) Jeune fille de la famille ?MARCAL [[?Alexandrine-Marie-Françoise-Pierre Marchal de Noroy \(c.1754–1780\)](#) ou [?sa cousine, Mme de Mesgrigny, née Anne-Edmée Marchal de Saincy \(1748–1824\)](#)] tenant un livre de musique, pstl, 48.3x38.1 ov., sd ← "J. B. Huet/Aoust 1761" (Eugene Pinto; London, Christie's, 20.V.1927, Lot 55 n.r., 80 gns; Wertheimer. Dru Heinz; London, Christie's, 4.VI.2019, Lot 53 repr., attr., est. £3–5000, b/i). A/r Boucher pstl, n.[J.173.194](#) φστ



[J.4086.1028](#) Jeune fille, en buste, dessin au pstl (Paris, Drouot, Chevalier, 20.II.1886, Lot 101 n.r.)

[J.4086.103](#) Jeune berger, pstl, 29x20 (Didier Aaron, 1992, adv. *Revue du Louvre*, repr.) φ



[J.4086.105](#) Jeune bergère assise près d'un couple de moutons et un âne bâté; on remarque un petit garçon animant un chien contre du bétail qui chemine vers la droite, pierre noire, pstl/ppr, sd ✓ "J. B. Huet en 1780" (Vienna, Albertina, inv. 15379. Albert Kasimir Herzog von Sachsen-Teschen). Exh.: Huet 2016, no. 51 repr. φ



[J.4086.107](#) Bâtiments de ferme dans une saulaie, au bord d'un petit ruisseau, où pêche à la ligne un petit garçon; & pendant: [J.4086.108](#) cour de ferme, où sur des bottes de foin est assise une jeune villageoise, adossée à la porte rustique d'un verger, sous laquelle joue un enfant, pstl, 34x44.5, sd "J. B. Huet, 1787" (E. & J. de Goncourt 1868; Paris, Drouot, 15–17.II.1897, Lot 132/133, Fr4500; Athanase Vagliano, Paris, 1897–1933). Exh.: Paris 1879, no. 631/n.r. Lit.: Launay 1991, no. 143/144 n.r.

[J.4086.11](#) Bergère, pstl, 39.5x28.5, sd ✓ "J. B. huët 1788" (E. & J. de Goncourt; Paris, Drouot, 15–17.II.1897, Lot 128, Fr3050; Mme Bernard/Bénard/Gérard; Lewis H. Samuel 1913; London, Christie's, 16.VII.1915, Lot 114, 130 gns; Coureau; Georges Wildenstein 1933). Exh.: Paris 1879, no. 632 n.r.; Paris 1883b, no. 210; London 1913a, no. 68, comm. cat. no. 79 n.r.; Paris 1933e, no. 209; New York 2005a, no. 139. Lit.: Launay 1991, no. 139 repr. φ



Photo courtesy owner

[J.4086.113](#) Tête de jeune femme, pstl (Mme Jean-Baptiste-Marie Huët, née Marie-Geneviève Chevalier; inv. p.m., Paris, 27.VII.1781, item 9). Lit.: Hug 1998, p. 168 n.r.

[J.4086.114](#) Tête de jeune femme, pstl, 17x13, monteur Adolf Stoll, L.2786c, ✓ (Paris, Drouot, PIASA, 22.III.2006, Lot 104 repr., est. €2300–2500, €2800) φ



J.4086.116 Têtes de moutons, pstl, cr. noire/ppr, 28x30.5, sd ✓ 1767 (Paris, Beaussant Lefèvre, 19.X.2001, Lot 60 repr., est. Fr6–8000, Fr49,000) φ

J.4086.118 L'abreuvoir, pstl, 29x41.5, sd 1778 (Georges Bourgarel; Paris, Drouot, Lair-Dubreuil, 15–16.VI.1922, Lot 113 repr.) φ



J.4086.12 A cock with hens and chicks, cr. clr/bl.-gr. ppr, 25.6x38, sd ✓ "J. B Huet 1778" (British Museum 1877.0512.633. Halstead; acqu. 1877) φ



J.4086.122 Une fabrique, orné de figures & d'animaux, pstl (Paris, 11.VI.1779 & seq., Lot 82)

J.4086.123 Deux différens sujets; marches de troupeaux dans un paysage, pierre noire, pstl (Barbier, peintre de l'Académie de Saint-Luc; vente p.m., Paris, Graux, Joullain, 19.VII.1779 & seq., Lot 35, 71 livres 19; Hamon)

J.4086.124 Deux chiens, chlk, pstl/ppr, 26.3x38.2, sd ↓ "J. B huet 1779" (Louvre, inv. 27201. Defer; acqu. 1844, Fr10). Lit.: Prat 2017, fig. 313 φ



J.4086.125 Cour de ferme, bl. chlk, pstl/ppr, 29.6x40.4, sd ✓ "J. B huet 1779" (Washington, NGA, Samuel H. Kress collection, inv. 1963.15.15. Georges B. Lasquin; Paris, Georges Petit, 7–8.VI.1928, Lot 97. Richard Owen, Paris; acqu. Samuel Kress 1935). ?Exh.: Rhode Island 1933. Lit.: Eisler 1973, p. 328, no. K380, fig. 288 φ



Photo courtesy National Gallery of Art, Washington

J.4086.127 Paysage: un parc, une chute d'eaux entre deux lions, quatre personnages, pstl, 29x47, sd "J.-B. Huet, 1779" (G. T. Villenave; Paris, Alliance des Arts, Commendeur, Bataillard, 1–8.XII.1842, Lot 665, Fr17.50. London PC 1968). Exh.: London 1968a, no. 340 n.r.

J.4086.128 Les petits fermiers, pstl, 1779 (Paris, Galliera, Couturier, Nicolay, 22.XI.1972, Fr6500)

J.4086.129 L'oiseau échappé, pierre noire, pstl/ppr, 38x34, sd "J B huet 1781" (M. A...; Paris, Drouot-Richelieu Salle 7, M^e Néret-Minet, 15.XI.1999, Lot 56 repr., est. Fr25–20,000, Fr35,000). Exh.: Huet 2016, no. 53 repr. Lit.: Gazette Drouot, 15.X.1999, repr. Φ



Photo courtesy Néret-Minet

J.4086.132 Une caravane, pstl, 65x54.1 (cabinet d'un artiste; ?Paris, Goulet, de Forceville, 5.III.1784 & seq., Lot 58)

J.4086.133 Un mouton et autres accessoires, pstl, 32.5x48.7 (cabinet d'un artiste; ?Paris, Goulet, de Forceville, 5.III.1784 & seq., Lot 63)

J.4086.134 Jeune fille dans un paysage, jouant avec un mouton; & pendant: J.4086.135 jeune paysan passant un ruisseau avec deux moutons, pstl (baron Denon; Paris, Masson, Pérignon, 1–19.V.1826, Lot 760; 16 livres)

J.4086.136 La basse-cour d'une ferme, avec figures et animaux; & pendant: J.4086.137 un coq et des poules, pstl (baron Denon; Paris, Masson, Pérignon, 1–19.V.1826, Lot 761; 23 livres)

J.4086.138 Jeune pâtre suivie de son chien, fond de paysage, pstl, 30x21 (G. T. Villenave; Paris, Alliance des Arts, Commendeur, Bataillard, 1–8.XII.1842, Lot 668, as by Huet, "nous le croyons plutôt de Boucher")

J.4086.139 La source, dessin reh. pstl (Lacroix 1883). Exh.: Paris 1883b, no. 173 n.r.

J.4086.1401 Le retour de la foire: femmes, enfants, animaux, pstl, 16.5x23 (baron Maurice de Rothschild a.1945; restituted 9.IV.1946). Lit.: Répertoire des biens spoliés en France, item 4662, OBIP no. 33.041 n.r.

J.4086.1405 Scène pastorale, pstl (baron Maurice de Rothschild a.1945; procédure close 5.VIII.1961). Lit.: Répertoire des biens spoliés en France, item 4661, OBIP no. 33.041 n.r.

J.4086.1411 Une brébis et deux colombes dans un paysage, pstl, 23x33 (Paris, Galliera, Rheims, Laurin, Rheims, 29.XI.1968, Fr2300)

J.4086.1411 =mouton, oiseaux, chapeau de paille et bouquet de fleurs, pierre noire, pstl, 23x32

(Paris, Drouot, Oger, Blanchet, 14.XII.2022, Lot 145 repr., est. €800–1200, €1500) φ



J.4086.142 Une perdrix, pstl, 45x32.5 (Maurice Aicardi; Paris, Drouot, Pescheteau-Badin, 26.XI.2007, Lot 80 repr., est. €3–4000, €3000) φ



Anon. related pastels

Tableau avec deux figures, pnt. (New York, Sotheby's, 28.I.2005, Lot 553)

J.4086.201 Jeune garçon tenant un nid; & pendant:

J.4086.202 Jeune fille portant deux petites cages au bout d'un bâton, pstl a/r Huet, cadres en bois sculpté et doré (Jules Lecocq; Amiens, Ducatelle, 16–17.IV.1883, Lot 304 n.r., a/r Huet) [?; cf. a/r Boucher, J.173.873 & J.173.874]