

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

JEHNER, Isaac

Westminster 2.XII.1750 – ?Exeter 1818

The Jehner who exhibited four pastels as an *agrégé* of the Académie des Arts de Lille in 1778 may be identified by the mezzotint of the Marquess of Fitchfield [sic] which he also included (no. 66). The son of a German gunsmith, Jehner (who later changed his name to Jenner), worked under Pether to produce engravings after Reynolds (including the Marquess of Tichfield). He exhibited at the Society of Artists in 1777. On 2.VI.1777 he married Elizabeth Payne, daughter of a staymaker in Plymouth. His autobiography, published in 1806, explains his visit to Lille: the prospects for an engraver were not good, and his practice as a portraitist was—

confined to crayons, or watercolours, chiefly the former; the liability of which to fade at that time, from the defect in the crayons made it become more unfashionable; this determined me to attempt painting in oils – but where to start?

He was advised that the Flemish schools were the answer, and accordingly spent a year in Lille from .XII.1777. He returned to London, later exhibiting again at the Society of Artists in 1791, and settled in Exeter from 1780. He is no doubt the “J. Jehner, portrait painter” who advertised in *Felix Farley’s Bristol journal* (11.VIII.1787), advising the public that—

he continues to take the most striking likenesses, in chalks, at the very moderate expence of five shillings, in colours at ten shillings and six pence each.— He also paints animals and flowers, and has given particular satisfaction to many of the nobility and gentry this season, who have had the portraits of their favourite dogs and horses.

He advertised also his collection of sea shells, a few choice prints, and his own engravings after Hogarth.

Two years after his autobiography, Jenner, “drawing master”, also published a manual on the Art of drawing; it does not mention pastel.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Bénézit; Isaac Jehner, *Fortune’s football*, 1806; Mackenzie 1987; Oxford DNB; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

- J.4176.101 M***, pstl, Salon de Lille 1778, no. 62
- J.4176.102 Dame angloise, pstl, Salon de Lille 1778, no. 65
- J.4176.103 Child, crayons, Society of Artists 1777, no. 47
- J.4176.104 Portrait, pstl, Salon de Lille 1778, no. 63
- J.4176.105 Le Christ au tombeau, pstl, Salon de Lille 1778, no. 64