

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

JOURDAIN, Laurent-Bruno-François

Besançon 1745–1815

Son of the painter François Jourdain, a protégé of Mgr de Dürfort, Laurent-Bruno-François was also a pupil of Wyrsh. It was not until 1776, at the age of 31, that he succeeded in obtaining first prize at the école de Besançon. In 1785, when Wyrsh wanted to leave, Jourdain submitted an *Adam et Eve trouvant mort leur fils Abel*, but this was not considered adequate to justify his appointment to succeed his master, and the place was given to Lenoir (*q.v.*). Jourdain exhibited several pastels at the open salon of 1802, from rue neuve des Bons-Enfants, no. 26. Although he continued to teach drawing at Besançon after the closure of the École centrale in 1803, the drawing school had declined after the departure of Wyrsh and the short-lived tenure of Lenoir, and could not withstand the imposition of fees which his pupils, mainly drawn from the working classes, had been unable to afford. Jourdain appealed to the municipality in an impassioned letter of 11.VI.1803, and four years later was permitted to open an École gratuite de dessin to which he and the much younger dijonnais, Dominique Paillot (*q.v.*), were appointed professeurs. Jourdain's classes were attended on average by some 200 pupils. He made allegorical and religious paintings (such as the *Martyre de saint Vernier* in the Sainte-Madeleine at Besançon), miniatures, oil portraits, as well as some pastels. These show strong colouring; the faces have a provincial and somewhat Teutonic directness, with distinctive eyebrows and blueish shadows.

A second pastellist, working in 1818, and a miniaturist, by whom several examples have appeared, are among the homonyms with similar signatures.

Bibliography

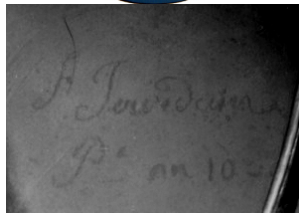
Bellier de La Chavignerie & Auvray; Bénézit; Müller & Singer 1921; Castan 1888, pp. 128–32; Charles Nodier, *Correspondance de jeunesse*, ed. Jacques-Remi Dahan, Paris, 1995, I, p. 127; *Memoires de la Société d'émulation du Doubs*, 1925, p. 131; Albert Troux, *L'École centrale du Doubs à Besançon*, 1926

Pastels

J.4226.101 Jean DUTESTU à 28 ans, pstl, 48x38, sd "Jourdain 1787" (Blois, Valoir-Blois, 11.XI.2007, repr.) φ



J.4226.103 M. de LA BROSE, en habit bleu, pstl, 65x50 ov., sd ∨ monogram "EL Jourdain/Pt an 10" [1802] (Nantes PC; desc.; PC 2010) φ



J.4226.106 Claude-Pierre PAJOL (1772–1844), colonel au 6^e régiment de hussards, pstl, sd verso "Jourdain fecit, 1807" (Besançon, musée des Beaux-Arts. Don 1888). Lit.: *Inventaire général des richesses d'art de France*, 1913, IV, p. 202 n.r.

J.4226.107 Mann mit Zweispitz, pstl/ppr, 50x39, sd ∨ 1810 (Bern, Galerie Vogler, 13.XI.2004, Lot 680, est. SwFr700, b/i; Bern, Galerie Vogler, 28.V.2005, Lot 670, est. SwFr350, SwFr950)

J.4226.121 Jeune femme en robe bleue, pstl, sd ∨ "Jourdain 1784" (PC 2018) φ



J.4226.141 Une tête d'étude, pstl, Salon de 1802, no. 142 *bis*

J.4226.151 Plusieurs portraits, pstl, Salon de 1802, no. 142 *ter*