Neil Jeffares, Dictionary of pastellists before 1800

Online edition

JENNINGS, Samuel

Philadelphia 1755 – London p.1845

The son of John and Mary Jennings, he enrolled in the College of Philadelphia in 1770. He advertised his drawing school at the State Lottery house in the Pennsylvania packet of 8.I.1787, adding "Mr Jennings continues to Paint Likenesses in Miniature, at three guineas each: Head Size Portraits in Oil at four guineas, and in Crayon two guineas." Later (General advertiser, 11.VI.1792) he offered a subscription to a print of his painting of Liberty displaying the Arts and Sciences, but he made this in London after his move there in 1787 when, armed with a letter of recommendation from Benjamin Franklin, he went to study with Benjamin West; he also learned portraiture from (Gilbert) Stuart. He was still exhibiting in London in 1834, from 1 Poland Street, and appears at that address as an artist in the full Post Office London Directory for 1845.

Bibliography

Franklinpapers.org; Myrone 2022; Prime 1932, II, p. 16; Schmiegel 1975, p. 331