

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LA HIRE, Philippe de

Paris 18.III.1640–21.IV.1718

Son of Laurent de La Hyre (or La Hire) (*q.v.*), one of the founders of the Académie royale. He was also a celebrated natural scientist and astronomer, and “un des meilleurs hommes du monde” according to Saint-Simon, notwithstanding his breach with La Hyre’s patron, the prince de Luxembourg. The Carnavalet portrait of the artist’s son is attributed on the basis of the strong similarities with the autoportrait. His *Traité de la pratique de la peinture*, published in 1730 (in tom. IX of *Histoire de l’Académie royale des sciences*, pp. 425–88) but read to the Académie des sciences in 1709 (and probably written c.1699), includes important observations on the use of pastels presented in the context of scientific research rather than as a practical guide for practitioners, although it offered useful advice such as the need to maintain a homogeneous, moderately soft consistency within a set of pastels.

Delestre, Morgand, 19–23.v.1896). Exh.: Paris 1984a. Lit.: Montgolfier 1982, no. 35 repr., Éc. fr. XVIII^e Pinault Sørensen 2010, fig. 20, as by Ph. de La Hire [new attr., 2006] Φνσ



Photo courtesy musée Carnavalet

Bibliography

Burns 2007, pp. 21f; Mariette 1851–60; Montgolfier 1982; Madeleine Pinault, “Note sur Philippe de La Hire”, in *La Hyre* 1989, pp. 76–80; Madeleine Pinault Sørensen, “Philippe de La Hire et ses fils, dessinateurs et savants”, *Bulletin de la Société de l’histoire de l’art français*, 2010, pp. 31–84; Saint-Simon, *Mémoires*, Paris, 1983, VI, p. 642

TREATISES

Pastels

J.4434.101 AUTO-PORTRAIT, pstl, ov. (Paris, Observatoire, inv. I.87. Desc.: Madeleine de La Hire, fille du sujet; inv. p.m., 25.v.1762; François-David Herissant (1714–1773), docteur régent de la Faculté de médecine de Paris, tuteur pour les petits-enfants de La Hire; don 1771). Exh.: Paris 1967c, no. 99. Lit.: *La Hyre* 1989, repr. p. 76 Pinault Sørensen 2010, fig. 19 φ



J.4434.103 ~version, pierre noire, craie blanche (Mariette. Charles Rogers; vente p.m., London, Phillips, 15.iv.1799 & seq., Lot 347) ~~grav. Alexandre Savérien (1720–1805), pour *Histoire des philosophes modernes*

J.4434.105 Augustin de LA HIRE (1688–1744), fils de l’auteur, inspecteur des ponts et chaussées, pierre noir, pstl, 22.8x18 ov., c.1718 (Paris, musée Carnavalet, inv. D.7999. Hippolyte Destailleur (1822–1893), architecte; Paris,