

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

LEBRETON, Jean-François

Bonchamp-lès-Laval 1761 – p.1844

Also Le Breton; pupil of Vincent and David; professeur de dessin et de perspective at the Institution des sourds-muets. The only recorded painting is a portrait (at Pontoise) which received the premier prix Montyon in 1834. A drawing dedicated by him to “Isabey père” in 1844 testifies to his friendship with another David pupil.

His year and place of birth are universally accepted; but the parish register for that year reveals only a Françoise-Jeanne, baptised 12.V.1761 to Jean Le Breton, marchand de tissus and Françoise Loret; perhaps a gender confusion at birth.

His pupil Aimée-Aglæe-Adélaïde, dite Adèle, Mme Adrien Jarry de Mancy (1794–1856) collaborated with him and published a work expounding his teaching methods (she was Lebreton’s daughter, and married first a René Lebreton who died before her second marriage, on 26.XII.1829).

According to his biographer du Rozoir, in the “époque de sa première jeunesse, il sculpta un Christ, composa quelques tableaux d’église, et dessina au pastel plusieurs portraits.” There is no further evidence beyond the inscription that the pastel sold in 2008 is by this Lebreton, nor is any other pastel by him known so far.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Charles Gabet, *Dictionnaire des artistes de l’école française, au XIX^e siècle*, 1831, pp. 98, 371; Ch. du Rozoir, in Jarry de Mancy, *Portraits et histoire des hommes utiles...*, Paris, 1841, IV, p. 249–58, p. 251; *Genava*, V–VI, 1927, p. 13

Pastels

J.4678.101 Jeune femme, robe bleue, perles et plumes aux cheveux, 44x32 ov., inscr. verso “Pastel par Lebreton 1791” (Royan, Geoffroy, 20.IV.2008, Lot 87 repr., est. €400–600; Royan, Geoffroy, 26.VII.2008, Lot 112 repr., est. €300–500) Ⓞα

