

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MUSSON, Pierre

Orléans 15.X.1739 – Paris 29.V.1820

A pastellist and miniaturist, he exhibited a case of miniatures at the Salon of 1799. He was more celebrated as a hoaxer and female impersonator than as an artist, according to the *Mémoires secrets* and a number of other sources; among his victims were Isabey, the princesse Dolgorouky and général Thiébault. Pierre Musson, peintre, rue Pierre-Sarrazin married a Marie Sautrin on 21.XI.1774 (AN MC/ET/XXVII/373). He died in a traffic accident in the rue de la Chaussée-d'Antin (then named rue du Mont-Blanc). Herluison praised the several works that were exhibited in the Orléans retrospective: “on a remarqué de ravissants portraits (miniatures et pastels), dus à son pinceau délicat, tous d'un faire charmant, d'un nacré suave et sans doute d'une grande exactitude de ressemblance”.

There are confusions with his father, the Protestant clockmaker from Orléans Pierre Musson (maître 1746, 1717–1795) as well as with the pastellist's younger brother Pierre-Salomon, a pupil of David and Brenet at the Académie from 1784, when he was staying with his brother in the rue Montmartre.

Bibliography

Bénézit; Herluison & Leroy 1899; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004

Pastels

J5504.101 AUTOPORTRAIT, pstl. Exh.: Orléans 1895, no. 35 *bis*; “Musson, horloger du Roi”.
Lit.: Herluison & Leroy 1899, pl. XXIX φ

