

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

PYE, Thomas

1756 – p.1796

Irish portrait and history painter in oil and pastel. He studied in Dublin 1770–74, exhibiting coloured chalk portraits at the Society of Artists from Capel Street in 1774 and oils in 1775. He moved to London where he entered the Royal Academy Schools on 16.VI.1775 (“aged 19 29 next July”) and exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1776. In 1781 he moved to Rome, where his practice was confined to making copies. One of his patrons was Lord Bristol who discussed the deficiencies of Pye’s work with his agent in Rome, Jacob More, insisting that a copy of Titian’s Machiavelli and Cesare Borgia be retouched; despite this Pye became Bristol’s agent when More died in 1793. There is no evidence that he continued to work in pastel after his 1774 exhibits.

Bibliography

Breeze 1985; Ingamells 1997; McGuire 1939, p. 15; Strickland 1913; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006

Pastels

J.6046.101 Three portraits, cr. clr, Dublin 1774