

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

RAMSAY, Allan

Edinburgh 1713 – Dover 1784

The leading British portrait painter in the middle of the century, Ramsay was trained in London, travelling in 1736 to Rome and Naples where he studied with Francesco Solimena and Imperiali. He returned to Edinburgh in 1738 but soon moved to London. A further trip to Italy took place in 1754–57. According to Cunningham, Ramsay's 1764 portrait of George III met with such demand for repetitions that he was forced to take on assistants to meet the demand; among them were Mary Black and Vispré (*q.v.*).

Ramsay was a great admirer of French pastellists such as La Tour (to whom he makes approbatory reference in a *Dialogue on Taste*, of which the second edition appeared in 1762), and his oil portraits often strive after similar lighting effects; but he seems rarely to have used pastel himself. The only secure example, the self-portrait in Edinburgh, shows a tentative handling using a medium of pastel mixed with watercolour in which the artist is distinctly less at home than in the black chalk version of the same image.

In his last years, Ramsay visited Italy with his son John, whose diary has been published (Ingamells 2003) and includes notes on artists such as Hugh Douglas Hamilton (*q.v.*).

Monographic exhibitions

Ramsay 1964: *Allan Ramsay*, London, Royal Academy. Cat. Alastair Smart

Ramsay 1992: *Allan Ramsay 1713–1784*, Edinburgh, SNPG, 1.VIII.–27.IX.1992; London, NPG, 16.X.1992 – 17.I.1993. Cat. Alastair Smart

Ramsay 2013: *Allan Ramsay: portraits of the enlightenment*, Glasgow, Hunterian Art Gallery, 13.IX.2013 – 5.I.2014. Cat. Mungo Campbell

Bibliography

Bénézit; Edinburgh 2008; Goulding 1936; Grove; New Haven 1979; Oxford DNB; Smart 1999; Waterhouse 1981

Pastels

J.6092.101 SELF-PORTRAIT, pstl, watercolour, 40.6x28.2, c.1755 (Edinburgh, SNPG, inv. PG727. Don David Laing, LL.D.: Royal Scottish Academy; don 1910). Exh.: Ramsay 1992, no. 52 repr. clr; Skirving 1999, no. 2 n.r.; Edinburgh 2007; Edinburgh 2008, no. 40 repr.; Ramsay 2013. Lit.: C. J. Holmes, "Allen Ramsay, drawn by himself", *Burlington magazine*, XXIX/157, .IV.1916, p. 26 n.r.; Smailes 1990 repr.; Smart 1999, fig. 663; Baker 2011, p. 20 repr.; Stephen Lloyd, review, *Apollo*, .XI.2013, p. 114 repr. φσ



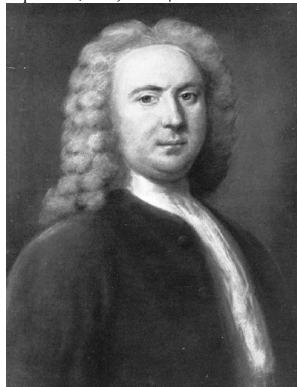
~self-portrait at an easel, pnt., c.1756 (PC). Lit.: Smart 1999, no. 430, fig. 478

J.6092.104 ~other studies

J.6092.105 William EVELYN of St Clare (1734–1813), MP, high sheriff of Kent, monochrome pstl/ppr, 52x42 ov. (desc.: Rev. John Evelyn Boscawen, rector of Wotton; acqu. David Dibble of Wotton; PC 2012). Attr. φα



J.6092.107 Thomas Robinson, 1st Baron GRANTHAM (1695–1770), diplomat, ambassador to Vienna 1730–48, pstl, c.1737; & pendant: J.6092.108 spouse, née Frances Worsley (a.1729–1750), pstl, c.1737 (Marcus Worsley, Hovingham Hall, 1777). Lit.: Kerslake 1977, II, pl. 285/n.r., attr. φα



J.6092.11 Mrs Joseph LANGTON, née Bridget Glanville Evelyn (1733–), monochrome pstl/ppr, 46x36 ov. (desc.: Rev. John Evelyn Boscawen, rector of Wotton; acqu. David Dibble of Wotton; PC 2012) Attr. φα



J.6092.112 Mrs Chase PRICE, née Sarah Glanville Evelyn (1735–1826), as a girl, monochrome pstl, 47x36 ov. (desc.: Rev. John Evelyn Boscawen, rector of Wotton; acqu. David Dibble of Wotton; PC 2012). Lit.: Helen Evelyn, *The history of the Evelyn family*, London, 1915, repr. opp. p. 566. Attr. φα



J.6092.114 Young lady, pstl/ppr, 26.6x20.2, monogram (Montréal, Pinney's, 9.VI.1992, Lot 208 attr., C\$300) [attr.]

Anon. related pastels

CHARLOTTE, Queen of England, née von Mecklenburgh-Strelitz (1744–1818), pnt., 1762 (London, NPG)

J.6092.117 ~cop., pstl (Prinz von Hannover). Lit.: Ingamells 2004, p. 103 n.r.