

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SCHOPENHAUER, Frau Heinrich Floris, née Johanna Trosiener

Gdańsk 1766 – Jena 1838

The mother of the philosopher married a rich merchant at the age of 18. In 1806 she moved to Weimar with her children Arthur and Adele, and there became a writer and noted salonnière surrounded by Goethe, Wieland, Schegel etc. Among her works were articles on painters, including Jan Van Eyck, and she published a biography of her friend Fernow. The pastel of him is likely to have been executed after her move to Weimar, and there is no evidence that she made any pastels before 1800. It seems that she was influenced to take up the medium, and guided in its use, by Johann Heinrich Meyer (*q.v.*); she describes making a pastel self-portrait in a letter to Arthur Schopenhauer of 10.VII.1807

[...] ich habe mein Porträt angefangen in Lebensgröße in Pastell nach dem Spiegel zu mahlen, und Meyer giebt mir Raht dabey, ich wollte doch einmahl wieder etwas Großes mahlen, ich habe Conta und seine Schwester in Miniatur gemahlt und viel Ehre damit eingelegt. Bis 12 Uhr blieb Meyer bey mir, so lange mahlte ich [...]

Bibliography

Julia Frindte, "Handlungsspielräume von Frauen in Weimar-Jena um 1800", Dr. phil. dissertation, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena, 2005; Arthur Hübscher, *Schopenhauer-Bildnisse*, Frankfurt am Main, 1968

Pastels

J.6634.101 SELBSTBILDNIS, pstl, 1807 (Sibylle Mertens). Lit.: Hübscher 1968, XII n.r.

J.6634.102 Carl Ludwig FERNOW (1763–1808), Professor, Kunsttheoretiker und Bibliothekar in Weimar, Brustbild, pstl. Exh.: Berlin 1861, no. 55, p. 14