

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

VENETZIANOV, Alexei Gavrilovitch

Nieshin 1779 – Safonkoroо 1847

Алексе́й Гаври́лович Венецианов; also Venetsianov. Russian portraitist, genre painter and caricaturist; pupil of Borovikovsky at the academy of St Petersburg. His father Gavril Yurievich was of Greek origin, but came from Chernigov in the Ukraine. He settled in Moscow as a merchant. According to newspaper advertisements from 1794–95, he offered framed and glazed pastels; the unknown artist of these may well have influenced (or may even have been) the son, who himself advertised in the *Sankt-Peterburgskie vedomosti*, eight years later (2.V.1802): “A painter recently arrived here...capable of drawing objects from nature in pastel in the course of three hours &c.” A number of pastels are known, but the earliest dates from 1804. In 1807 Venetianov joined the civil service but continued to paint in his leisure, copying Italian and Dutch old masters from the Hermitage collections. In 1808 he was a contributor to a short-lived journal of caricatures; he then took up print-making. In 1812 he joined the Academy but remained employed as a civil servant until 1819, when he finally adopted painting full time. Much of his early work was burned in his parents’ house in Moscow in 1812.

Bibliography

Т. Алексеева, *Художники школы Венецианова*, 1982; Bénézit; Горбачева 2002; Aleksei Venetsianov & Rosalind Polly Gray, “The real and the ideal in the work of Aleksei Venetsianov”, *Russian review*, LVIII/4, 1999, pp. 655–75

Pastels

- J.752.05 Female portrait, pstl (Petr Mikhailovitch Romanov 1905). Exh.: St Petersburg 1905, no. 1115 n.r.
J.752.101 Cleaning beetroots, pstl/ppr, 58x68, 1822 (St Petersburg, GRM)