WILLIAMS, William

Norwich 1727 – 1791

Self-taught portraitist; father of William Joseph Williams (*q.v.*). Williams arrived in America in 1747 as a mariner but was employed in Philadelphia 1759 and 1776 as a theatre-scene painter. His manuscript *Lives of the painters* influenced Benjamin West. According to his advertisement in the *Pennsylvania gazette* of 21.IV.1757, he also taught the flute. In the *New York gazxette and weekly Mercury*, 8, 15.V.1769, he undertook "painting in general, viz. History, portraiture, landskip, sign painting, lettering, gilding and strewing smalt." He also restored pictures and taught drawing.

Bibliography

Howard 2010; Washington 1987

Pastels

J.7974.101 Man, pstl, 55x37.5 (Colonial Williamsburg 1974)

J.7974.102 Child holding dog, pstl, 54x37 (Colonial Williamsburg 1974)