

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WILSON, Richard

Penegoes 1713/14 – Llandberis 1782

Portraitist and landscape painter and draughtsman. In 1729 he was apprenticed to Thomas Wright (*q.v.*). He pursued a career as a portraitist in oils in London until, in 1750, he travelled to Rome, where, over the next seven years, he turned himself into a classical landscape painter. Back in London, he was a founder member of the Royal Academy. In a letter from London by Jean-Claude Pingeron in the *Journal d'agriculture* for .iv.1768, p. 84, he and George Barrett were named as the two best landscape painters in London: Wilson in particular had “sur-tout une belle couleur & des effets.” Although he made numerous drawings in black chalk and stump (particularly as studies for his landscapes), only a single example in pastel is recorded (although the attribution is questioned in the Richard Wilson online catalogue): the greens are surprisingly strong for an eighteenth century work.

Monographic exhibitions

Wilson 1920: *A collection of oil paintings and sketches by Richard Wilson, R.A., lent by Captain Richard Ford*, Brighton, Fine Art Galleries, 28,II.–2.v.1920. Cat. Henry D. Roberts

Bibliography

Paul Spencer-Longhurst & al., *Richard Wilson online*, accessed 2014; 2018

Pastels

J.8004.101 Landscape: river with a group of figures in front and wood beyond; evening light, cr. clr/ppr, 17.5x23.7 (Benjamin Booth, father of Lady Ford; Captain Richard Ford, London, 1934; PC 2014). Exh.: Wilson 1920, no. 53; London 1934a, no. 1143; Exeter 1946, no. 21. Lit.: Brinsley Ford & al., “The Ford collection”, *Walpole Society*, 1998, no. RF 101; *Richard Wilson online*, no. D384 repr., ?attr. *pa*

