

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WYRSCH, Johann Melchior

Buochs, Nidwalden 21.VIII.1732–9.IX.1798
Religious, genre and portrait painter. Variants of his name include Würsch, and a third baptismal name of Jose, Josef or Joseph sometimes appears. He taught at the École des beaux-arts de Besançon from 1763, but in 1784 he moved to Luzern (his place being filled by Lenoir, *q.v.*). A pastel copy of one of his portraits (with modifications to the costume and face) was erroneously attributed to Labille-Guiard until identified by Joseph Baillio (its pendant was after Schilly). There is no evidence that he worked in pastel himself.



Monographic exhibition

Wyrsch 1998: “*Gepudert und geputzet*”: *Johann Melchior Wyrsch, 1732–1798: porträtist und Kirchenmaler*, Nidwalner Museum. Cat. Regine Helbling & Marianne Baltensperger

Bibliography

Bénézit; Besançon 2022; Börsch-Supan 1988; Wey 1861

Pastels

J.8082.051 Jean-Charles COURTOT DE CISSEY [(1770–1842), capitaine de cavalerie], pstl, ov. (Mazaroz-Ribaliér; Paris, Drouot, Tual, 1–3.XII.1890, Lot 226 n.r.)

Anon. related pastels

Mme François-Antoine WEY, née Mathilde Gamel (1762–1839), pnt., 1785 (Louvre RF 777)

J.8082.101 ~cop., pstl, s, 31x25 ov., c.1788 (Vries; Amsterdam, 16.VI.1924, Lot 188, with pendant, a/r Schilly, J.6594.102). Lit.: *Passez* 1973, no. 104, pl. LXXXIII as Labille-Guiard; Jeffares 2006, p. 601*Ci*, *Éc. fr.*; Auricchio 2009, p. 124 n.r., E, identifying source [pendant, cop. a/r Schilly, duc d’Enghien, *q.v.*] Φ



J.8082.103 ~cop./pastiche, en robe jaune, pstl, 28x20 ov., s “de la Tour” (Hamburg, Stahl, 28.XI.2020, Lot 415 repr., as of M. & Mme Chateauroux, attr. La Tour, est. €4500, with pseudopendant a/r Schilly, J.6594.106) [later pastiches, with costumes c.1790] φπν