

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WYRSCH, Johann Melchior

Buochs, Nidwalden 1732–1798

Religious, genre and portrait painter. Variants of his name include Würsch, and a third baptismal name of Jose, Josepf 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

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

Bibliography

Bénézit; Börsch-Supan 1988; Wey 1861

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, Passez 1973, no. 103). 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.*]
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