

Référence électronique

MAËS Gaëtane, « The Drawing School of Lille », translated by Alexandra Woolley, *Les papiers d'ACA-RES, Brefs historiques*, put online in March 2020

Gaëtane MAËS
Université de Lille,
CNRS UMR 8529-IRHiS

The Drawing School of Lille

The town council of Lille opened its free Drawing School on the 17th of February 1755, suggested by painter Jean-Baptiste-Joseph Le Tillier (Lille, 1728-Paris?, ap. 1777). The initial goal of the institution was for students and artist to perfect their drawing in order to be of service to the manufactures and to other disciplines needing drawing. Located in the old military hospital of Saint-Louis (rue des malades, now rue de Paris), the school set up lessons for “(fabric) manufacturers” which were given as soon as the institution opened from Mondays to Wednesdays, as well as other lectures given to artists and craftsmen on Thursdays and Fridays.

As well as the drawing lessons, architecture lessons were given from 1760 following the proposal of local architect Thomas-François-Joseph Gombert (Lille, 1725-Lestrem, 1801). Then in 1762, mathematics was taught by doctor Nicolas-Joseph Saladin (La Bassée, 1733-Strasbourg, 1829).

In 1766, the School was given specific buildings (rue des Récollets, now rue des Arts), where the rules were put in application (8th of October).

In addition to its Free drawing School, the city of Lille also organized annual exhibitions (that became biennial from 1789) that were open to artists, craftsmen, amateurs and students from 1773, and that lasted up to 1820. Moreover, an Art Academy was founded in 1775 to free painters and sculptors of the corporations' regulations and taxes.

This plan of action was kept in place until the Academies were abolished in 1793. Drawing and Architecture lessons were given again from 1795 in the *Écoles centrales* until they were closed by decree on the 22nd of March 1803. On the 28th of August 1806, Lille decided to reinstate artistic education under the name of *Écoles académiques* (made official by Imperial Decree on the 7th of January 1808).

Selective Bibliography

Historical References

Anonyme, « Notes pour servir à l'histoire de l'École de dessin de la ville de Lille », *Continuation et remplacement de la loi de la ville de Lille*, 1^{er} novembre 1775, non paginé.

VERLY Hippolyte, « Écoles académiques de Lille », dans *Essai de biographie lilloise contemporaine. 1800-1869*, Lille, 1869, p. 233-236.

HOUDOY Jules, « L'Académie des Arts de Lille, *Études artistiques*, Paris, 1877, p. 89-114.

DUTHIL Jules, « Les écoles académiques de Lille », *Au jour le jour*, 1887, t. III, p. 192-199.

DE MEUNYNCK A., « Les médailles des l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts de la ville de Lille et les origines de cet établissement », *Au jour le jour*, XIV (mars-avril 1897), p. 408-409.

LECLAIR Edmond, *L'École centrale de Lille, 1795-1803*, Lille, 1904.

GAVELLE Émile, *L'École des Beaux-Arts de Lille*, Lille, 1909.

Recent Studies

DUTHOY Jean-Jacques et OURSEL Hervé, « L'enseignement à l'Académie des Arts de Lille au XVIII^e siècle », *Revue du Nord*, LXXI, 281, 1989, avril-juin, p. 377-399.

OURSEL Hervé, « L'Académie des Arts de Lille au XVIII^e siècle », dans A.W.A. Boschloo (A.W.A.) et al. (éd.), *Academies of Art between Renaissance and Romanticism*, La Haye, 1989, p. 244-253.

TRENARD Louis (éd.), *Histoire de Lille - L'ère des révolutions (1715-1851)*, Toulouse, 1991.

MAËS Gaëtane, *Les Watteau de Lille - Louis Watteau (1731-1798) et François Watteau (1758-1823)*, Paris, Arthena, 1998, préface de Christian Michel.

MAËS Gaëtane, *Les Salons de Lille de l'Ancien régime à la Restauration (1773-1820)*, Dijon, L'Échelle de Jacob, 2004, préface de Philippe Bordes.

MAËS Gaëtane, « Charles Lengart (1740-1816) ou la fonction sociale d'une collection », dans Raux S. (éd.), *Collectionner dans les Flandres et la France du Nord au XVIII^e siècle*, (actes colloque, Université de Lille 3, 2003), Villeneuve d'Ascq, 2005, p. 19-40.