

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DAVRIL, Marie-Victoire

Paris 1755–1820

Also d'Avril; Davril seems to be the commoner spelling in contemporary documents. Portrait painter in oil, pastel and miniature; she exhibited at both the Salon de la Correspondance (where her portrait in miniature by Mlle Frémy, *q.v.*, was also shown) and the place Dauphine in 1783. Vincent left the self-portrait of his wife Mme Labille-Guiard (*q.v.*), Mlle Avril's teacher, to her: "Cet ouvrage dans lequel brille un talent aussi délicat que spirituel, ne peut, j'en suis assuré, qu'être précieux à Melle d'Avril puisqu'il lui rappellera les traits de l'amie qui lui fut si chère à tant et de si justes titres." She is described as Marie-Victoire Davrel in documents in the Archives nationales describing the purchase of a house at Pontault-en-Brie by Mme Labille-Guiard and Vincent jointly in 1792; of the 30,000 livres price, some 4000 was provided by Mlle Capet and Davril, living in the rue de Richelieu. The arrangement was finally unwound in an 8. "Ma bonne amie M^{lle} Davril demeurant à Paris place s. Michel" was one of the legatees in Mlle Capet's will of 1818; she received a life interest in capital of Fr10,000, the reversion to go to a Victoire Perrier.

The posthumous inventory of Marie-Victoire Davril, rue Sainte-Hyacinthe Saint-Michel, no. 1, was prepared 7.VII.1820 (AN MC/ET/XII/870). She died in her maison de campagne at Guibeville, Corbeil. Apart from normal items of furniture there was 4410 francs in cash. The papers included documents relating to Edme-Jean Cottin (a wine merchant in Paris who died in 1814, but not obviously related to the banker Jean Cottin), to whom Mlle Davril was universal heir and evidently closely connected (although not married): they had jointly owned other properties, including a maison de plaisance near Orléans. The inventory includes very little to identify her as the pastellist, except "cinq tableaux, dessins & gouaches, sujets divers, sous vers dans leur cadres de bois doré, d'après MM. Vincent et Suvé; une autre tableau, peinture sujet Belisaire dans son cadre de bois doré, prises vingt francs." Bélisaire was a favourite subject for Vincent, and both named painters were closely connected with the pastellist and Mme Labille-Guiard.

She is most likely to be the Marie-Victoire Davril whose birth on 30.XII.1755 is recorded in the État civil reconstitué.

Bibliography

Cuzin 2013; Doria 1934; Greer 2001; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008; Passez 1973; Ratouis de Limay 1946; Sanchez 2004; Wildenstein 1966, pp. 79f

Pastels

J.1174.101 AUTOPORTRAIT, Salon de la Correspondance, .VII.1783, no. 193